SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

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Making camp

TV presenter Julia all set to start canvassing

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Sixth sense

Huge Public revamp work gets under way

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Cup in sight

Baggies Under 21s deliver a killer blow

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SHOCK FINDINGS ON AIR QUALITY

Report by Marion Brennan

SANDWELL is one of the worst places in Britain for air pollution. That is according to the latest findings from the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the borough is even worse than Birmingham.

The 10 most polluted neighbourhoods are all in London. But outside the capital, Sandwell and Leicester are joint fifth, with Walsall in eighth position and Birmingham tied in 10th place with Nottingham. All have levels significantly above World Health Organisation(WHO) guidelines.

The problem is caused by tiny particles of airborne pollution from vehicle exhaust fumes.

Of the many types of air pollution, the invisible-to-the-eye droplets are the only kind that can enter the bloodstream and therefore be taken deep into the body and cause the most damage.

However, there is no obligation for local authorities to tackle the fine particulates air pollution which is being blamed for a wide range of medical conditions, including angina and heart attacks, cancer, asthma, bronchitis, Type 2 diabetes and dementia. Road transport remains the largest single source of nitrogen-dioxide pollution.

The motorway network and cars and lorries belching fumes whilst waiting in traffic queues is being cited as the root of the problem. The WHO upper limit for the particulate is 10 micrograms per cubic metre of air.

Controlled

In Sandwell the figure is 13.6 and in Walsall 13.2. The level in Birmingham is 13.1. The City of London has the highest level in the UK with a reading of 18.8.

The borough's director of public health John Middleton said: "Traffic is the major cause of air pollution in Sandwell, and the region, as industrial emissions are tightly controlled. Given the increase in traffic levels, we obviously face a big challenge. We have a network of air quality monitoring stations around the borough to measure air quality and we are doing all we can to combat pollution."

Elsewhere in the Black Country, work is taking place to tackle pollution levels in Netherton, Dudley.

Birmingham City Council is looking to reduce car usage and encourage cycling. It has recently won funds to promote cycling in the city. It is also working with bus companies to improve the quality of emissions.

Hundreds helped on rent after tax starts

HUNDREDS of families have been given financial help to pay their rent since the 'bedroom tax' took effect in Sandwell.

The borough council has awarded 1,400 discretionary housing payments to help residents meet the shortfall between their rent liability and housing benefit they are receiving.

The financial lifeline is costing £243,112.35 at the moment and it is believed a further 2,000 people affected by the controversial policy have yet not asked for any help. It is not known how many of those people have since found themselves in debt.

It comes as it was revealed that 403 households affected have been rehoused to more suitably-sized accommodation. While 663 families were refused discretionary housing payments because they were deemed to have too much income.

Council chiefs say the payments are a short-term measure. Sandwell's finance chief Councillor Steve Eling said: "This just shows this policy is absurd. It has to be remembered that for years the bulk of local authority housing that was built was three-bed houses for families. Given that was the major thrust for social housing, it's hardly surprising there are so many three-bed houses and there are not enough smaller homes."

Borough's job queues grow

UNEMPLOYMENT in the UK has fallen again – but job queues are getting longer in Sandwell.

National figures show a 125,000 drop in unemployment between October and December last year to 2.34 million.

But in Sandwell the number claiming Jobseeker's Allowance rose by 258 to 11,075, or 5.6 per cent of the working population. In neighbouring Walsall the claimant count rose by 238 to 8,254 (4.9 per cent).

Cash boost grants may help sports

SPORTS clubs in Sandwell could compete for £500 grants for new equipment under a £10,000 grant programme being considered. The move is being mooted in the wake of a report which dubbed Sandwell one of the laziest boroughs in the country.

Bosses say they hope it will be as successful as the Community Chest fund which was previously run by Sandwell Homes, the organisation which looked after the borough's social housing, before its responsibilities were absorbed by the council on January 1 in an attempt to curb restricted council spending.

Councillor Paul Moore, the borough's health chief, said of the idea: "We're considering launching a small grant programme for sports clubs. It will be based around £500 grants for sports equipment.

"At the moment we're thinking of having two rounds of bids each year"It will be similar to the old Community Chest fund.

"We're looking at an overall pot of around £10,000 to hand out and the idea is not just to give money to established sports clubs but we want to increase participation generally and get more people active."

The idea has been revealed after a report which claimed last month that Sandwell residents are among the most inactive in the country.

New chapter starts for friends

Friends of West Bromwich Central Library chairman John Willetts appeals for new members

A GROUP which promotes and raises funds for a library is looking for more volunteers to get involved.

The Friends of West Bromwich's Central Library has been running for around a year and presently has four members.

But the group wants to boost its numbers to around 12 and are urging people interested in volunteering to get in touch.

Members meet every two months at the library, in High Street, and discuss ways of promoting the service and ways to raise funds. Chairman John Willetts said the group worked to raise awareness of the library and events taking place.

He said the library had recently undergone an extensive refurbishment. Work on the exterior of the building cost £35,000. Anyone interested in taking part can call John on 0121 553 0874.

Discounts are on the cards for workers

AROUND 5,000 council staff could benefit from a new employee discount scheme instead of pay rises.

Sandwell Council says it cannot afford to increase its workers' salaries as it needs to make savings of £100 million by 2017, but is instead looking for outside help to make their money go further. The authority is looking for an external firm to help establish an employee discount scheme which works by tapping into the council's buying power as an organisation of that size.

Internal research has found half of council staff are at the top of their pay grade already, so this move is aimed at encouraging workers and helping retain them, while the authority cannot offer pay rises.

The authority has earmarked £35,000 to spend on an external firm for the first year of the scheme to help make this idea a reality.

Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "Staff haven't had a pay rise so what I've asked the council to do is to look at how we can use its collective buying power to offer something back to staff." Part of the plan is for council staff to have an employee discount card which is accepted by retailers. The idea is to make the borough more prosperous as the 4,946 council staff are encouraged to spend more money in the area.

Finding new apprentices

YOUNG people in the Black Country are being helped with entry into an apprenticeship at a special one day event in Sandwell.

The Leap into Apprenticeships will be held at Connexions Centre in High Street, West Bromwich, on Monday, from 12.30pm-3pm and is being run in partnership with Sandwell College and Sandwell Council.

For more information call 0800 358 4800/0121 569 2955 or visit www.facebook.com/connexions.sandwell

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Classes to help sufferers get fit

FREE heart and lung 'rehabilitation' classes are being held to help those who have previously had illnesses to get fit.

Mytime Active, working in partnership with Sandwell Leisure Trust, will be running the programme in Sandwell's leisure centres to help those that have experienced a heart or lung related illness to improve their wellbeing.

The classes take place weekly at different locations across the borough.

Esther Coles, Mytime Active rehabilitation programme manager, said: "Keeping active when recovering from a heart and lung condition is the key to staying mobile and independent, so these sessions really benefit the people taking part.

"We are now encouraging individuals to contact us if they feel they would benefit from our programmes and we will then contact their GP on their behalf to refer them to the programme.

"The programmes are free to those that are eligible to join but the benefits can be priceless."

Mark Wildman, marketing and business manager at Sandwell Leisure Trust, added: "We are really pleased to be working with Mytime Active to offer these sessions at Sandwell's leisure centres. Exercise can be very beneficial to those that are recovering from heart and lung conditions and we hope that more people take up these free sessions."

For more information on the HeartSmart and LungSmart programmes, call 0121 366 0966.

Meanwhile Mytime Active is holding a fundraising Zumba and Circuits event on February 25 from 10am to midday at Smethwick Swimming Centre.

Two put behind bars for sexual assaults

TWO men from the Black Country have been locked up for sexually assaulting two 12-year-old girls they met while on holiday in Devon.

Mohammed Islam and Masudur Rahman left a beach at Torquay and went with the girls to a nearby park where they took part in sex acts with them. The two 19-year-olds from Tipton were on holiday with friends.

They were tempted by the girls because their strict upbringing meant they were inexperienced and immature. The girls were just 12 but lied about their ages and said they were 14 and were willing participants in everything that happened, Exeter Crown Court was told.

Both men had never been in trouble before and were respected members of their communities. One was a volunteer at a youth club and another about to start an economics and business degree at a university in London.

Islam, of Bevan Road, admitted two assaults and one sexual assault and Rahman, of Slater Street, admitted one assault and one sexual assault.

They were both given custodial sentences of two years in a Young Offender's Institution by Judge Francis Gilbert, QC and ordered to remain on the Sex Offenders' Register for life.

He told them: "You were both on a beach and started chatting to these two girls who were strangers. There was some flirting and you went with them to a rugby field near the railway station where they were both assaulted sexually.

"It was, to put it politely, a sordid sexual encounter. You both say they participated willingly and I accept that basis of plea. I accept they told you they were 14 but they were in fact 12."

Fresh start for popular morning DJ

A POPULAR Black Country radio presenter has announced he is to leave his role on Free Radio after more than two decades in the industry.

Nigel Freshman – better known as Fresh – has found success as a breakfast co-presenter with the station and been with the station which was formerly known as Beacon and based in Wolverhampton, for 24 years.

He currently presents Free Radio's breakfast show with Cat James in the station's Oldbury home.

Mr Freshman will leave the broadcaster on February 28.

He told listeners on his Facebook page: "I have to announce that after many years of being on the radio here at Free (and it's former guise) I am moving on to new things.

"It's been a real pleasure to be part of your mornings and I can't thank you enough for choosing to listen to us.

"My final day here will be February 28. It's been a long and agonising decision for me to make but I feel the time is right."

Julia gears up for big show

TV presenter Julia Bradbury opening The Camping and Caravanning Show

TELEVISION presenter and lover of the great outdoors Julia Bradbury, has launched the caravan industry's biggest showcase in the country.

The first female president of the Camping and Caravanning Club, Julia was on hand to launch The Camping and Caravanning Show at the NEC on Tuesday. Sporting a fetching, traditional Edwardian-style tweed British cycling suit, she also launched the start of the club's 2014 cycling challenge.

Julia revealed that, to coincide with the Tour de France this year beginning in England, a team from the club will stage a six-day charity cycling challenge. Julia joins them for the final leg, which finishes in Scarborough on Friday, May 30.

The show runs until Sunday, tickets can be purchased on the door at £10 for adults and £9 for seniors, with children aged 15 and under admitted free. For details visit www.thecaravanandcampingshow.co.uk

Burglary response police in drug find

A REPORT of a burglary led police officers to discover around 200 cannabis plants.

The drugs were found at a house on Victoria Road, Tipton, following a report of a burglary there at around 1am last Thursday. Police have launched an investigation and are now hoping to discover who owns the house.

West Midlands Police spokesman Billy Corrigan said: "Just after 1am police received a 999 call from a member of the public reporting a burglary in progress.

"Officers were immediately dispatched but when they arrived just minutes the later offenders had fled the scene.

"Once inside the building around 200 cannabis plants was discovered."

Police are trying to crackdown on the supply of cannabis around the region. Bosses say fighting the crime is a 'huge drain' on resources. Around £100million worth of the drug was seized in the West Midlands in the past three years.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

CAB Auto jobs boost on way

ACCELERATING growth at one of the region's most successful car-parts manufacturers is promising a jobs boost for Tipton.

Cab Automotive, which makes car seats, arm rests, dashboards and parcel trays, is one track for turnover of £40 million this year.

And a pair of big contract wins, as well as major investment in new equipment, means the company aims to boost its 240-strong workforce by around 30 per cent. That could mean around 80 new jobs by the end of this year.

The company has recently won £7 million of new work.

Pub's big voice

A FORMER contestant from TV talent show The Voice is to appear at a pub tonight, Thursday. Birmingham's LB Robinson, who appeared on series two of the BBC programme, will be at The Abbey Hotel in Abbey Road, Smethwick. For details call 0121 429 6067.

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Meeting due over historic hall plan

A PUBLIC meeting is due to take place today, Thursday, as UKIP activists step up their opposition to proposals to revamp an historic hall and create a hotel and new homes. It will cost the owners of listed Great Barr Hall around £20 million to rebuild the main hall and transform it into a hotel and conference centre, it has been claimed.

Owners consortium BCG Lakes have submitted a planning application to revamp the hall which has stood empty on the border of Walsall and Sandwell since 1978 and have revealed details of how much it will cost to transform the derelict building and parkland.

Proposals would see the site off Chapel Lane become a conference venue and 57 homes. The main hall would be transformed into a hotel, while homes would be built in the surrounding grounds of the site that borders the M6 southbound.

The cost of the hall will be mostly funded by the enabling works of the proposed new housing estate which is allowed under agreement with English Heritage. The meeting is at Great Barr Methodist Church, Sundial Lane, Great Barr, from 7.30pm.

Star's Frank attempt at charity doodle

Frank Skinner's doodle of a clock tower

HE'S not known for his artistic skills, but West Bromwich comedian Frank Skinner has put pen to paper for a quirky drawing in the name of charity.

Stand-up Skinner is among a host of famous faces to offer drawings for this year's National Doodle Day.

Sir Michael Parkinson, Bill Nighy, Jackie Collins and John Bishop have all done doodles which will be auctioned off to raise money for Epilepsy Action.

National Doodle Day began 11 years ago and takes place on March 7.

As well as celebrities, members of the public can also create their own masterpieces and donate a pound to the charity. Skinner drew an image of a clock tower and wrote on the back of his drawing: "Hope National Doodle Day is a massive success. And that the other doodles are better than mine."

Drawings

Philippa Cartwright, fundraising events manager at Epilepsy Action said she hoped the drawings by Frank and other well known stars would help raise thousands of pounds for the cause.

She said: "Every year we are overwhelmed with the positive support that we receive from celebrities and members of the public alike.

"The celebrity doodle auction is always a terrific success, raising thousands of pounds in much-needed funds for Epilepsy Action.

"The highest-grossing doodle ever raised £1,600 alone, so this event really does make a huge difference to people with epilepsy and their families."

The comedian will be bringing his new show to Wolverhampton Civic Hall later this year. He is due to perform at the venue on April 17.

Visit www.nationaldoodleday.org.uk to view the doodles.

School relocation plan to meet demand for places

A PRIMARY school has announced plans to relocate into bigger premises in a bid to cope with the baby boom.

St Hubert's Primary School in Oldbury will move to the vacant former Langley High School and Oldbury Academy site in Moat Road, should the plans be given the green light by Sandwell councillors. A brand new school would be constructed.

Along with the school building itself, there would be car parking and external play areas, and pupils would also have access to the adjacent playing fields.

In turn it is expected that the vacated site on Wolverhampton Road, currently under the ownership of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, could then be used to either expand an existing primary or create a brand new 210-place school.

The move is necessary as the current site is 'too irregular shaped', and access is too limited for an extra 210 pupils. The scheme would be funded by the Government's multi-million pound Basic Needs Programme. It has not yet been announced how much the scheme would cost.

A report has been submitted to children's Councillor Simon Hackett and budget boss Councillor Steve Eling, who will both need to give the plan their approval.

It states: "Approval of this project will ensure that the council is able to meet its statutory responsibility of ensuring every child in Sandwell has access to a good school place by seeking to build on its commitment to expand successful and popular schools."

It goes on to say: "If this report is not agreed, then the council will risk having an insufficient level of school places."

Warming up to help the elderly in scheme

ELDERLY people are being given a helping hand by a charity which is giving out packs of clothing and equipment to keep them warm during the cold weather.

Muslim Aid handed out 20 Keep Warm Kits to pensioners at the Grace Mary Church in Newhall Street in Tipton.

The kits included a blanket, bed socks, gloves, a scarf, hat, thermometer and hot water bottle. The handout was part of the charity's winter appeal, which aims to cut the number of elderly people who die in the winter each year.

It works in partnership with Age UK and Shelter.

Sandwell Councillor Derek Rowley was on hand at the church to help distribute the packs.

He said: "The charity recognises the high number of deaths among older people due to the freezing weather and has an appeal to do something about it.

"I think it's great they spend time giving out these kits which will help those who receive them."

Darts players score big for charity

Front, Stacey Perkins, aged 24 from Oldbury and Bernard Melvin, the darts team manager, from Smethwick

A DARTS team has made a double top effort raising funds for charity – drumming up more than £57,000 in three years.

The Smethwick Labour Club Air Ambulance Darts Team has dedicated its efforts to supporting the Midlands Air Ambulance charity.

Its members tour pubs and clubs every Friday playing matches with bucket collections to raise cash for the cause. And the club has now totted up its total over the past three years and realised it has raised £57,591.

Dave Burford, the president of the Labour Club, a retired warehouse worker, from Smethwick, said he was proud of the achievement. The grandfather-of-three said: "Every penny of the money we've raised has gone to the air ambulance.

"We don't take anything out to cover any costs. I always tell people you never know when you might need the air ambulance because it's the quickest way to get you to hospital. I'd like to think that we're helping them carrying on doing great work."

Mr Burford said the club, based in Coopers Lane, was also due to host a bash this Friday in aid of the same charity - with four artists playing a host of 50s, 60s and 70s music and Sandwell Mayor Councillor Linda Horton attending.

He said at least £800 had been raised from that evening already as its tickets had sold out in advance. Anyone who wants to take on the Smethwick Labour Club Air Ambulance Darts Team can ring Bernard Melvin, team manager, on 07905 708 267.

Community heroes call

THE hunt is on for nominations for unsung heroes for this year's Wednesbury Community Awards.

People have until March 28 to nominate special people, groups or businesses for an award in a number of categories.

The winners and runners-up will be presented with their awards at a special event at Wednesbury Town Hall on April 17 from 6pm to 9pm, which will also feature entertainment.

For nomination forms and further information contact Julie Elstins on julie_elstins@sandwell.gov.uk or 0121 569 2532.

Dance invite

A BALLROOM and sequence dance will be held to raise money for the renal unit at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital. The Pelsall Kidney Machine and Research Committee holds the event at Wombourne Civic Centre on Saturday. Call 01922 683159.

NEWS in brief

Triathlon under starter's orders

A FIRST council-run triathlon is being planned for Walsall this summer. There will be running, swimming and biking as part of the event on June 15 and it is the brainchild of public health chief Councillor Zahid Ali.

The event will be staged at Oak Park Leisure Centre and will feature a 400m swim, a 15km bike ride and a 5km run for entrants aged 15 and above. There will be a £10 entry fee and to register visit the www.walsall.gov.uk/walsall_triathlon website.

Hopes for sun by organisers

ORGANISERS of an annual canal festival are hoping for better weather for the summer extravaganza after rain dampened last year's show.

More than 2,000 revellers usually flock to Brownhills Canal Festival event held at the waterfront, in Silver Street. This year's show is on June 29.

Brownhills Local Committee chairman Doug Birch said: "We are hopeful that things will be better this time round."

The committee was set up in 1996.

Knockout new kits for boxers

A COMPANY has gone to the aid of young boxers who were in desperate need of kit.

Cannock firm Icon Exhibitions & Display has donated hooded tops to members of Walsall Wood Amateur Boxing Club. Club chiefs say it will help give youngsters a positive group identity.

Boss Wayne Ball handed over the tops, made at

Work on major route finished

WORK to revamp a busy junction through Walsall to the tune of £75,000 has been completed to create a new traffic island, an extra lane and wider pedestrian crossings.

The busy Broadway and A34 Birmingham Road traffic island junction is used by thousands of motorists a day and is ready after six weeks of work.

Great War tree

A PEACE tree is to be planted in a village to make the anniversary of the First World War. It is to be put near to the Cenotaph in Pelsall and a service of prayers will take place on February 22 at 11am.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

IN A reckless moment I suggested the floods might spell the end of HS2. A few hours after that column appeared, a BBC report suggested the need to repair existing lines might put the future of the high-speed railway in doubt. And you can bet your life Auntie Beeb would not suggest such a thing unless she has been talking to someone important.

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IF the floods do lead to HS2 being cancelled, it will be the closest thing to divine intervention this cheerfully godless nation of ours is ever likely to see. Get ready with those hallelujahs.

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IN the meantime, is it too much to ask that every politician visiting the flooded areas might at least take a stirrup pump or a couple of buckets?

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I TRUST the foul weather has not interrupted your diligent save-the-planet routine of making sure the plastic bottles and glass bottles do not go in the same container. Has anyone noticed how much better the weather was before wheelie bins?

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IT'S statins all-round. The wonder-drug of the cholesterol age is to be prescribed to millions of Brits, even those at relatively low risk of heart attacks. The aim, presumably, is to make us live for ever, or at least long enough to die from cancer or dementia. Progress, eh?

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I LOST count of how many times Barclays chief executive Antony Jenkins used his bank's latest buzz-word on his Radio 4 interview. Barclays probably paid the earth for some City PR company to dream up this most vacuous of slogans and the intensely irritating Mr Jenkins was clearly getting his money's worth. Time after time he stressed that Barclays was becoming "the go-to bank." It is at moments like this that you wish radio were a two-way process and you could say to Mr Jenkins: "The very next time you insult my intelligence with 'the go-to bank,' I will reach through the loudspeaker and slap your legs very hard." Jenkins rattled on: the go-to bank, the go-to bank, the go-to bank. Got it? Later that day Barclays announced that, while the millionaire bosses were getting enormous bonuses, the bank was making 12,000 minions redundant. Barclays – the go to the JobCentre bank.

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SO farewell, Shirley Temple, not only the sweetest child ever to emerge from Hollywood but one of the first names I ever learned. If you were a boy, born in the 1950s and had a tousled shock of blonde curls, you got used to the big kids addressing you as: "Oi, Shirley bloody Temple."

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I WROTE fondly a few days ago of the golden age of broadcasting when intelligence and learning were revered and one of the most popular programmes was the Brains Trust. A reader of the same vintage reminds me that this period of towering intellectual majesty also featured Archie Andrews, a ventriloquist act on the radio. That's right, a ventriloquist you couldn't actually see. Peter Brough made a good living talking to a wooden puppet on the radio. It was only when he and Archie Andrews appeared on television that we realised what a terrible ventriloquist he was. Agsolute gollox.

□□□□□□□□

A CHARITY called Balance says the North East is in the grip of an alcohol epidemic which is costing the local economy £1.1 billion a year. Auntie Beeb promptly dispatches a radio crew to the blighted area where they find drinkers (or "vulnerable people," as the charity calls them) queuing up for the pubs to open at 8am and sinking six or 10 pints before lunch. The most striking thing was that these folk did not sound vulnerable or even depressed. They all seemed very jolly.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Bus company renews £100k fund

A BUS company is pledging a second wave of £100,000 to community groups to help provide activities for young people.

The National Express Foundation has awarded tens of thousands of pounds since its launch in 2012 and has revealed it was putting more funding up for grabs. To be eligible a community group must be based within the West Midlands and provide positive activities for young people in deprived areas. Anthony Vigor chairman of the National Express Foundation said: "The level of interest in the National Express Foundation last year exceeded all our expectations, and we're delighted we were able to support over a thousand local youngsters.

"We are investing another £100,000 into the Foundation this year to provide more awards for local community groups, colleges and universities. We know so many people are active in the local community, so if they think they would benefit from our support we urge them to look at our funding criteria and put forward an application."

Sandra Adams from Olio Youth Centre in Darlaston, which received funding from the Foundation in 2013, urged others to apply for grants of £2,500 or £5,000. She said: "In 2013 the National Express Foundation donated a £5000 grant to The Olio Youth Centre. The grant enabled us to clear derelict waste land around the Olio Youth Centre that was the victim of fly-tipping. Other community groups should apply as it really does make such a huge difference."

Applications need to be received by midday on March 28. Details can be found at www.nationalexpressgroup.com/foundation

Centro on course to find extra £1m cuts

AN extra £1million in cuts will have to be found from the staffing and operations budget at transport authority Centro after officials decided not to cut services to the public.

Councillors on the authority met last Thursday to vote on the 2014/15 budget, with 15 councillors welcoming the proposals and seven voting against.

By Lisa O'Brien

Initial plans to increase half-price children's bus fares to two-thirds were thrown out as councillors implemented a £7 million budget cut.

The organisation had also originally considered scrapping its funding for Ring and Ride, which provides a door-to-door service for pensioners and disabled people, but its annual grant will instead be cut to £8.5m – £2m less than this financial year.

The 60p fee for the service will be increased to £1 from April. Councillors also voted to safeguard free bus travel after 11pm for older people, the blind and disabled

Around 8,000 responses and three petitions were received during a consultation on the proposals, including one signed by 56,000 people making calls to maintain the level of funding to Ring and Ride services.

Now as a result of backtracking bosses will have to find another £1m of savings than originally planned from its operational and staffing costs, which is suffering a loss of £3m. Before the meeting at Centro House, dozens of West Midlands Pensioners Convention members gathered outside armed with placards, against any Ring and Ride threat.

Councillor John McNicholas, who chaired the meeting, said it was only right for Centro to reduce the budget given the dramatic cuts in Government funding being faced by councils. He made reassurances during the meeting that feedback had been taken on board during the consultation process.

Walsall Councillor Richard Worrall, who voted in favour of the proposals and was heavily involved in the Ring and Ride campaign, said alternative sources of funding for the service would need to be considered for the future.

After the meeting, he said he was not happy with funding cuts to Ring and Ride but admitted it could have been worse.

Swinging into spring

LANGLEY Band will be performing their Spring Concert at the Barlow Theatre in Langley, Oldbury, on Friday, March 21 at 8pm and Saturday, March 22 at 7.30pm.

These are the first performances in their series of concerts for 2014 at this venue, with a programme varied with music ranging from classics to pop music.

The band will be conducted by their musical director Cliff Parker.

Tickets are £8, £5 for ages 16 and under, and are available from 01384 918547. Details of all of the band's activities can be found on www.langleyband.co.uk

Flag unfurled for big day

Lord Lieutenant Paul Sabapathy with dignitaries, including Sandwell Mayor Linda Horton

DOZENS of civic dignitaries gathered for the ceremonial unveiling of a Commonwealth flag which will be hoisted to mark the contribution of its nations to the UK.

The Shri Venkateswara Balaji Temple in Tividale was chosen to host the event held to officially hand over the flag which will be flown at council houses across the region to mark Commonwealth Day on March 10. Around 150 leaders from authorities turned out, as well as Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Paul Sabapathy.

Leo O'Toole, from the Hindu temple's management team, said the venue was chosen because of its reputation for hosting inter-faith events as well as supporting secular groups. He said: "It really was a unique and historic occasion which embraced the temple's collaboration with all types of groups."

£400 is raised to help with bed costs

MORE than £400 has been raised to help fund a specialist bed which will help to keep a disabled boy safe at night.

A fundraising evening at The Brunswick pub in Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, on Friday February 7, which featured drag artist Anett Curtain, prize bingo and karaoke, raked in £402.

That money will now go to Newlife Foundation for Disabled Children to help five-year-old Kenzy Jones, from Walsall and who has Autism Spectrum Disorder, to provide a £5,939 Safespace.

Parents Kyla and Kiy Jones said: "Kenzy will not stay put in a normal cot or bed so one of us has to stay with him each evening until he gets to sleep so we know he is safe and not disturbing his brother. That usually takes three to four hours.

"We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone at The Brunswick, particularly Vicky, for helping us stage the fundraiser, to local organisations including Clearance Bargains which donated raffle prizes and to all those people who supported the event." To donate towards the cost of Kenzy's bed go to www.justgiving.com/Kenzy-Jones

Treatment for crash woman

A WOMAN was taken to hospital following a crash involving a car and a road-sweeper on a busy road.

Police and ambulance and fire crews from Tipton and Dudley were called to the incident in Sedgley Road East in Tipton just before 7.30am on Tuesday.

The woman was freed from her car by firefighters before being treated for back and arm pains by paramedics. She was taken to Sandwell General Hospital.

The road was briefly blocked and traffic remained slow after emergency services left the scene at about 8.45am.

Sign green light

PLANS to change the signage outside a Black Country car garage have been given the go-ahead. The signs have been earmarked for the Kwik Fit workshop on Stafford Street in Wolverhampton city centre. Council planners have backed the scheme.

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Pub plans for bank site closer to reality

THE company behind the scheme to turn a former bank into a real ale public house have moved their plans one step further.

Black Country Inns has now submitted an application for a licence at the old HSBC bank in Bearwood.

If granted, it could allow the company to serve alcohol there between the hours of 10 and midnight, and opening hours would be between 10am and 12.30am.

Residents' feelings over the plans have been divided since a planning application was submitted for the building around a month ago.

Commenting on a town social networking website Bearwood Blog, one user, Paul Miller, said: "At last, something worthy of support. This is a real fillip after the relentless march of takeaways, charity shops, pound shops, letting agencies etc."

Lyndsey Plant wrote: "New pub, new jobs, new lease of life for Bearwood. Long time coming." But others living on nearby Wattis Road have said they fear the development could exacerbate existing problems with litter, anti-social behaviour and noise.

It is expected the planning application could be decided later this month.

Show street sign mystery

THE road sign on the infamous James Turner Street has gone missing.

The street sign bearing the moniker of the Winson Green road, made famous by the Channel 4 programme Benefits Street, was discovered missing on Thursday.

The sign had become a big draw for 'tourists' travelling to have their photographs taken on the street, which is the scene for the controversial show.

Birmingham City Council has confirmed the missing sign has been reported to them, and a spokeswoman said they are planning to replace it.

Gospel service

A GOSPEL Service with a guest speaker is due at Cradley Heath Baptist Church. The free event on Saturday at 7pm at the Corngreaves Road venue, will also have free gifts for children, a free bible for adults and free refreshments.

NHS 111 contract costs £1m for workers

MORE than £1million has been spent on agency staff to run the controversial NHS 111 phone service in the West Midlands it has emerged.

Temporary staff have been taken on by West Midlands Ambulance Service.

The emergency service was forced to take on the workers under the terms of the contract to run the phone line that caters for non-emergency health calls which it took over from NHS Direct in November.

NHS Direct pulled out of operating the service after saying the contract was too expensive.

But when the ambulance service took it on it was told it had to also inherit phone service staff from employment agency Conduit.

This amounted to around half of those employed to run the service – around 123 equivalent full time positions.

A workforce report compiled for West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust board of directors meeting laid bare the financial conditions it was left with by taking over the contract.

Total agency worker spend was £1,589,115 for the financial year to date, according to the trust.

Around £1.1m was as a direct result of the 111 contract which was paid out of the deal. The remaining figure around £400,000 covers agency staff in other departments by the ambulance trust over the same period.

Over the previous 12 months the trust had spent £893,977 on agency workers.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokeswoman Suzie Fothergill said: "The sudden spike in agencies costs coincided with the takeover of the 111 contract on November 11. "As part of the contract, the trust agreed to honour the previous provider's agency agreement to provide staff up until April 2014. The costs for these agency staff are fully inclusive within the contract and therefore have not impacted on the ambulance service."

The trust now delivers the 111 service in Birmingham, Solihull, the Black Country, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Coventry and Warwickshire. Bosses have introduced a training programme for phone staff and say that improvements have been made in the past four months.

The NHS Direct announcement that it was pulling out of the contract came as an undercover investigation revealed 'serious failings' in the system nationally with staff shortages and unnecessary ambulance call-outs.

College scheme Public transformation begins

WORK has started on the exciting new Central Sixth, as the number of applications for places at Sandwell College's state-of-the-art sixth form college soars close to the 1,000 mark.

Following detailed design and planning work carried out by Sandwell Council and Sandwell College, the new Central Sixth will be created inside a remodelled The Public building.

Local contractor and major local employer, Interserve, who also built the new Sandwell College, has been appointed to deliver the new Central Sixth, which will open in September 2014.

The new Central Sixth will not only represent a major investment in education, it will also support a variety of arts-based activities, which will be open to the public, including the St Patrick's Day festival from 2015.

Once remodelling work is completed, a newly renovated café will be open to the public with a programme of events and exhibition space.

Work has now begun on site to create a new A Level hub for Sandwell College that will bring hundreds of new students to the area, supporting numerous new jobs, both at the college and in surrounding businesses. A business support centre will be based in the campus to help start-up companies.

Sandwell College Vice-Principal, Scott Upton, said: "Since we opened our new college in 2012, we have seen a huge demand for places, proving that if you build an inspirational learning environment, students from miles around will want to benefit from it. We believe our sympathetic remodelling of 'The Public' will amaze, appeal to and attract students and parents, giving us the opportunity to expand and our learners a fantastic and inspiring environment, where they can achieve their full potential.

"We're very excited to be pushing this project forward for the people of Sandwell and the West Midlands. Local traders have already praised the college for increasing takings on the High Street and the new campus can only add to this.

"We're aiming for the top and we want to work with students who are doing the same."

John Tew, Darren Cooper, David Large, Graham Pennington, and students

Part of The Public, showing its unique architecture

The sympathetic remodelling of The Public will see many of the original spaces being used as seminar and breakout learning environments. Improvements will also be made to the building, with new accessibility features, including better access between the floors.

A state-of-the-art lecture theatre will also be created using the existing layout, which will see students able to take full advantage of the unique spaces within the building.

Sandwell Council leader, Councillor Darren Cooper, said: "This project secures a long- term, financially viable future for The Public building that invests in high quality education for generations of our young people and supports the arts and business. Located in the heart of the town, not only will it provide inspirational learning facilities for up to 800 students, it will also mean that more places are available in the existing Sandwell College building.

"For the local economy this is fantastic news, as a whole range of jobs will be created to support the running of Central Sixth, including new teaching posts. It will also support job creation and revenue generation for existing and new businesses and in turn help to create a more vibrant and exciting community.

"It's important to help local businesses get started – and that's why there will be a unit at Central Sixth to support start-up companies. We're also looking forward to developing an exciting arts programme with the college."

Local contractor, Interserve, has already been welcoming construction businesses from its local supply chain to visit the site and tender for work on the ambitious project.

Interserve project manager, Dan Evans, said: "Throughout the remodelling process, we will be focusing on delivering the highest quality of craftsmanship to mirror the fantastic existing Sandwell College facility, which we previously delivered, on time and on budget."

NEWS in brief

Advertising signs plan is submitted

PLANS to place advertising signs on 24 lamp posts along two busy main roads have been recommended for approval. Ieuan Marsh, of Bay Media Limited, submitted the application to install the double-sided PVC banners on 18 lamp posts on the A461 Birmingham Road, in Dudley.

He also wants permission to place banners on six lamp posts along the Birmingham New Road. No objections have been received to the application and highways engineers had given their approval.

Call for collectors at Millican's gig

A CHARITY wants volunteers to help raise hundreds of pounds when a comedy favourite performs next month.

TV star and stand-up Sarah Millican will be at the Birmingham Symphony Hall for three nights from March 21-23.

And charity Macmillan Cancer Support will be doing bucket collections on each night.

Collections can raise up to £1,000 each and the charity hopes to encourage as many people to donate as possible.

Release without charge for three

THE investigation into an 'attempted abduction' outside a school has been dropped.

Police arrested three men on suspicion of attempted abduction while driving a white van in Sterndale Road, Great Barr, by officers last month. But all three have now been released without charge following police inquiries.

Parents go online for school places

MORE parents have applied online for school places in Sandwell than ever before.

This year 99.5 per cent of parents registered their secondary school choices over the internet, while 93 per cent registered primary places.

That is more than double the number who applied online in 2013.

Homes on view

SHOW homes are available to view at a multi-million pound new housing development. Part of a £26 million regeneration project in Smethwick, the Windmill Heights development totals 227 new homes.

NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

AS publicity stunts go, it is rather impressive. A 7ft by 12ft statue of a hedgehog has been installed in south London to promote David Attenborough's new TV series.

The life-like structure, placed in Clapham Common, took more than two months to create, and with 2,000 soft wood spikes, it is actually larger than a rhinoceros.

You hate to think what effect it will have on the drunks stumbling across it while taking the short-cut from the pub, especially when they try to explain the experience to their angry wives waiting at home.

"What? You've seen a 12ft hedgehog in the park? You'll be telling me next you're late because you bumped into George Michael."

❒❒❒❒❒

NICK Clegg, don't you just love him? The esteemed Deputy Prime Minister's latest pearl of wisdom is that a fresh approach is needed with regard to drug-related crime, because the war on drugs is being lost.

And let's face it he's right. Anybody who thinks there is any chance of winning the battle against drugs needs only to take a trip to their local magistrates court for a reality check. Day in, day out, our courts are occupied by a non-stop procession of twitching, paranoid junkies shuffling their way into the courtrooms, chuntering obscenities to themselves as they fidget and fumble in their seats.

But if we are going to be searingly honest about this, governments don't have a great track record when it comes to winning the war on many crimes.

Okay, Mr Clegg will no doubt point to the success Britain has in dealing with the serious stuff, you know, like not wearing a seatbelt or smoking in the pub. But when it comes to the more bread-and-butter offences, the perpetrators seem to have a woefully unhealthy disregard for authority.

For example, does Mr Clegg seriously think any government is going to truthfully be able to say it has 'made burglary history'? Or that a future Liberal Democrat government would be able to 'win the war on murder'?

The reality is that it is pretty well impossible to 'win the war' on any major crime, surely that does not mean we should throw in the towel and accept defeat. Are we now to turn a blind eye to street robbery or tax evasion, simply because those who are criminally inclined demonstrate a reluctance to change their ways?

Still, it was good to see that the Deputy Prime Minister decided to make his announcement in Columbia. You can just imagine half the country's drug barons nodding sagely in agreement: "I agree with Nick."

Family man – Nathan seen with four generations

Nathan, aged four, in his back garden with pet Shan

Nathan, with his brother Daniel and his wife Blais

Mother's greatest gift to help her son

MARION BRENNAN tells the touching story of how a mother helped her son who needed a new kidney

THEY say a mother's love knows no bounds and that could not be more true for Adrianne Black.

When the 70-year-old heard her son needed a kidney transplant, she did not hesitate to come to his rescue. Now she will give him the gift of life by donating one of her own kidneys later this month.

Son Nathan. who has been receiving dialysis for kidney failure three times a week for the last year, described his mother as 'amazing'.

The 45-year-old from Brownhills attends Samuel Johnson Community Hospital in Lichfield for five hours at a time.

It was in 2005 that his kidneys began to fail after he picked up a disease that went undiagnosed.

He said: "I was diagnosed in March last year with end-stage renal failure and I have been on dialysis for almost 12 months.

Consultation

"Kidneys can fail for a number of reasons after picking up infections, as the result of a cold and from using antibiotics.

"I go to hospital to have my blood cleaned three times a week and although it isn't painful, it is very time consuming and draining."

When doctors told him he needed a transplant, his brother Daniel, partner Jo and two friends all came forward to see if they were a match.

"They came with me to a consultation at QE Hospital in Birmingham where they were told about the risks involved and despite that they all had blood and tissue tests," said Nathan.

Adranne Black from Burntwood, giving her son, Nathan, one of her kidneys

But doctors found none of the four were suitable. It was then that his mother decided to be tested and found she was a match.

Nathan said: "Doctors have been monitoring her health constantly because she is 70 years old and she must have had every single one of her organs tested to make sure they are in good working order and that she is physically fit before surgery.

"I am slightly nervous about the operation because it is quite major surgery for both of us but at the same time I am very excited because my quality of life will improve greatly. "As it stands, I can't go swimming with my son or play football or even go on bike rides and I can't go on holiday with Jo like we used to so I am looking forward to getting back to normal again."

The father of three of Lichfield Road was scheduled to receive the transplant from his mother on Monday.

After the operation he was expected to remain in hospital for 11 days while his mother was to be discharged after four.

He added: "My mum is amazing. She is very active in the community and is a member of Christ Church in Burntwood as well as a member of the WI.

"Everybody already looked up to her but now she has heroine status. It is fantastic what she is doing for me, it is like she has given me a million pounds, I feel so happy and I am eternally grateful.

"She says that she would do anything for her children and if I was ever in her position I would do exactly the same for mine.

"You don't realise how important your family is until something like this happens.

"I haven't been able to work since my diagnosis, everything just stopped. My whole life has been put on hold but I couldn't have got through it without my family.

"My mum and dad and Jo have been so supportive and so have my brother and my friends.

Diagnosis

"I remember when I was diagnosed, I rang Jo who was in the middle of an exam as she was studying to become a solicitor, and she rushed to be at my side without a moment's hesitation.

"I can't wait until I am on the mend so that life can go back to normal."

Mrs Black, who lives in Tudor Road in Burntwood, said she didn't hesitate to put herself forward after her son's diagnosis.

She added: "I asked whether there was an age limit for donors because I knew a woman in her 50s who had donated an organ to her daughter.

"The nurse said there wasn't but that Nathan might not want a 70-year-old kidney.

"I said that if nobody else was a match or if anybody dropped out then I would step in.

"I have got a few nerves but I always say that I gave birth to Nathan so I have to give him life.

"Everyone has said how proud they are of me, but I am just doing what any mother would do for her child and keeping my fingers crossed."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

A 60-year-old vicar born above a grocery shop in Wolverhampton presided over Elton John's wedding to Renata Blauel. Canon James Whild was the man to oversee the eccentric pop star's marriage to Renata Blauel in a ceremony in Sydney, Australia. Before emigrating in 1956, Mr Whild, who was born in Dudley Road, Wolverhampton, had been curate at St Luke's Church in Blakenhall.

WEST Midland transport chief Phil Bateman was attacked as he went to the aid of a man being beaten in a pub brawl. Councillor Bateman, chairman of West Midlands public transport committee, was punched, butted and showered with glass as beer mugs were hurled at him in the Turks Head in Lancaster Circus, Birmingham. He had sprung to the defence of a man who was attacked while phoning for help following an assault on a woman.

1994

A NAKED man brought a Wednesbury keep-fit class to a standstill when he burst in and began performing obscene acts to the music in front of 60 shocked women. Some of the class at the leisure centre were upset, but others were unable to control their laughter. Police were unable to get a description of the man as few had been looking at his face.

THE wheels came off a day out for the Goodyear Pensioners' Club - literally. The coach carrying retired workers from the Wolverhampton tyre plant shed two of its wheels while travelling along the M6 in Warwickshire, just two hours after passing its MoT. The driver managed to steer the vehicle to the hard shoulder, and another coach picked the group up to take them to the Walt Disney ice show in London,

2004

THE price of a pint of beer around the West Midlands was going up by 10p, following a shock rise by the brewers of Carling, Worthington and Grolsch. Wolverhampton-based Banks's also increased the price of its beer by 3p a pint, blaming soaring production costs.

GLAMOUR model Jordan emerged from the I'm A Celebrity jungle, declaring she was totally besotted with fellow contestant Peter Andre. She said her feelings for former boyfriend Stuart were crushed the moment she met the Mysterious Girl singer, whose picture she had on her wall as a child.

DEPUTY Prime Minister John Prescott was in Wolverhampton to launch the city's flagship Market Square development.

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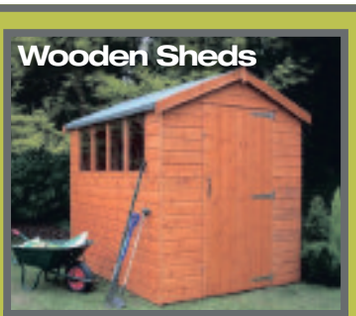

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LETTERS

Waging war on wrongly parked cars

HAVING seen your article bout traffic wardens and parking fines I should like to say good for them and a shame we don't have a good few more as the average motorist gives not one jot where he parks or what problems he causes as long as he's all right!

The one picture you show of Smethwick High Street is regularly blocked by inconsiderate parkers blocking buses and other motorists in spite of many signs outside the temple and on the lamp posts. There is not room on this road for parking of vehicles all the way down three deep. Motorists regularly block the pavements along the Wolverhampton Road with cars and vans so that they can keep their cars out of the mud on the grass but when you walk down with a pushchair you have to push it through four inches of mud. The road I walk down to the bus stop has a footpath nearly blocked with cars and on bin day there is no alternative but to walk down the entire road, in the road. At school time the problem is 10 times worse with the average parent not caring where they park as long as they don't have to walk more than a few feet to the school entrance. Regent Road in Tividale and surrounding roads are a good example, but when the council was approached by fed up residents, said there was nothing they could do.

As a bus user I see every day how inconsiderate parking blocks our streets – just last week a lorry driver caused chaos on City Road at 8am when he parked his lorry and went off to get a sandwich. Most motorists have an 'I'm all right Jack' attitude, if it takes traffic wardens to sort them out then so be it, employ a good few more and the money they bring in can be used by our councils to repair pavements destroyed by cars driving on them!

H CAMWELL, Tividale, Oldbury

Sorrow at shrinking royal cash

THE queen is worth every penny of £30m a year? well how do you value her majesty, does she bring in tourism, the establishment tell me she does, but then so does William Shakespeare and he been dead for over 400 years.

And now we are told her dwindling fortune is down to its last few million.

And what of her massive London property portfolio that has been increasing in value daily, and of course as a major shareholder in most of the world's top banks? I doubt very much if her fortune has been shrinking on the contrary it's been growing, it's just that we can't see it and it is so well hidden you will never find it.

But back to value, I don't think she is worth £30m a year but that my choice, and just like a political levy into a trade union I should have the right to withdraw from paying my 50p.

S T VAUGHAN
Yardley Wood
Birmingham

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
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E-MAIL
Sandwell.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Foreign aid must be reduced in austerity

OVER the past few years we have read – despite having an economic downturn, austerity measures hurting virtually all and the cost of living rising – that still this country pays out large amounts of money in the form of foreign aid.

Repeatedly we are informed it's for water, wells, pipeline and road infrastructure, or it's for a school in a far away village on the other side of the world. Whilst helping those in the most need has always been part of what this nation is about, one cannot help but feel just how many water wells have we paid for?

How many schools have we built? And how can anyone justify sending millions in aid to places like China and India, nations in a far better financial situation than ours.

Sceptically one may recall former prime ministers who having sent sickening amounts of foreign aid to strange nations, suddenly after political defeat becoming directors of companies in these nations....foreign aid will never stop, but let's have more down to earth transparent and meaningful aid.

If a foreign farmer needs to dig his land, send him a shovel not a cheque book.

S HARRISON, West Bromwich

Migrants' message misfires

COMMISSIONER Bob Jones recently stated that people should not panic because of the foreign criminals who are in our prisons, who are not deported, but who are then released back in society with menial sentences, and most being here illegally anyhow.

Does he mean the people who have suffered at the hands of these criminals even killed by them over the last 50 odd years? How many amnesties have been given to illegals because of politicians' failed immigration policies? Are these the ones who should not panic?

The people who make a lucrative living out of our judicial system exploiting loop holes in the law should be bought into line to for their part in this fiasco. The human rights brigade who are run by left wingers with communist ties are laughing at the people of this country who it costs millions to keep illegals in a life of luxury.

C VERMONT
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NEWS

Closure of venue for last stage of revamp

A TOWN hall will be completely closed for more than a fortnight for its £500,000 revamp to be completed, it has emerged.

Sandwell Council is spending more than £300,000 re-locating staff from its housing department into Wednesbury Town Hall. It will also spend a further £200,000 on improving facilities for community groups. Work has already begun and it is hoped the project for the Holyhead Road facility will be complete by around April 11.

By Alex Homer

The building will shut from March 24-April 11 for the finishing touches to be made to the project.

Councillor Elaine Costigan, who represents Wednesbury North ward, said the project would be completed in three phases.

The first includes sprucing up the box office used for gigs being booked at the venue by Wednesbury Celebrates, a community group. She said: "The work is coming along great at the moment. We must be around halfway through now.

"People have been asking for this for a long time. When it's finished, it will become a one-stop shop for residents as they will be able to go here to book social events through the box office or even pop in to pay their rent.

"We had a resident come in the other day trying to pay their rent already – we had to say they still have to go to the housing office – but I suppose it shows people would like to be doing that at the town hall."

The final stage of the revamp, which will require the temporary closure, will see a disabled life and toilet facility installed.

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Parents' sweet way to thank health staff

Parents Victoria and Oliver Campion with little Shayla and the sweets to say thank you to hospital staff

A COUPLE whose baby was nursed back to health by hospital specialists returned to show their thanks with a donation.

Victoria and Oliver Campion, returned to the neonatal unit at Birmingham's City Hospital just a week after baby Shayla's discharge to thank the unit's nurses with big boxes of sweet treats. Baby Shayla arrived into the world eight weeks earlier than expected. She was taken to the neonatal unit where she stayed for eight weeks suffering from a stomach infection.

Tests were undertaken and she was found to be well again but unfortunately a couple of days before Shayla was due to go home her stomach infection returned, this meant she was tube fed for 14 days. She is now well, putting on weight and at home with her parents.

Her mother Victoria said: "They would go above and beyond, not only looking after Shayla in respect of her feeding

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NEWS

Man buried up to his neck rescued by crews

The building site in Barclay Road, Bearwood, where a man had to be rescued after be became trapped in a hole

A WORKER had to be pulled to safety by emergency personnel from an 18ft hole where he was trapped after a massive collapse of soil on a construction site.

Ambulance crews, who could see only the head of the man in his 20s, scrabbled away earth to help free him at the start of a two and a half hour rescue operation on Monday afternoon.

The drama, in Barclay Road, Bearwood, began at about 2.20pm and seven fire engines, six ambulance vehicles and three police cars were called to the scene. The man was rushed to the Major Trauma Centre at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham to be treated for chest and suspected pelvic injuries. On the way he was given emergency treatment by a trauma doctor.

Barclay Road was closed between Lightwoods Hill and Upper St Mary's Road during the rescue as seven fire engines, six ambulance vehicles, an ambulance helicopter and three police cars arrived at the scene.

Suzie Fothergill, spokeswoman for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "On arrival at the scene crews could only see the man's head. Ambulance personnel quickly dug away some of the earth to help free the man.

"Emergency services worked closely together for over two and a half hours to extricate the man safely from the trench."

Crews used specialist stretcher equipment and a hoist to finally release him from the hole.

The Health and Safety Executive has launched an investigation into the drama.

It is currently a mystery why work was going on yesterday at the site, which is earmarked for housing.

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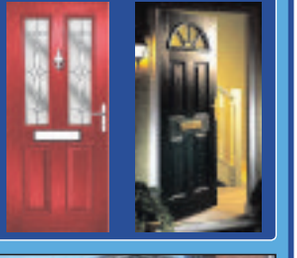

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NHS HEROES

Helping patients get back to their old self

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes from a wide variety of backgrounds, doing a wide variety of jobs, in one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations – Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally. Last year, the trust saw a patient on a face-to-face basis one and a half million times and provides care from 150 locations, as well as in your own home. This week:

RUTH WILLIAMS, Manager Integrated Care Service

WHO would have imagined that a one-time tousled haired little girl who used to run wild and free through Dartmouth Park in the seventies, would grow up to become the sophisticated woman who today manages integrated care services for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals?

Ruth Williams, aged 42, is a born and bred local, who takes daily delight in her role helping people to get back to the life they want to live no matter how long it takes.

As manager of ICares she works with nurses and therapists to help patients recover after illness such as when they have a fall, or suffer stroke or Parkinson's.

She explained: "My aim is to ensure our patients have everything they need to help themselves for the rest of their life.

Activities

"We try and stop people coming into hospital if we think there is a better place to treat them, and we can also see people as soon as they leave hospital to ensure they don't have to go back in.

"We will try and help the person get back to activities they want to do, which may be walking outside, going to the pub or enjoying their garden.

"As a one stop service for people at home, we try not to pass patients around services unless we agree with them that it's the right thing for their care.

"We don't see people forever, as we equip them to look after themselves, by providing the support they need to live independently, but we will always see someone again if they need us."

She began in her specialist field, training as a speech and language therapist some 20 years ago.

Ruth started working at Rowley Regis Hospital in the early 90s, where she set up a self-help group for people with communication problems (Speakability) that to this day still meets every month.

She was also instrumental in setting up, then redesigning the speech and language service, so it is now a nationally recognised speech therapy rapid response service.

It ensures people with swallowing problems, who are at the end of their lives can be seen the same day at home, rather than having to come into hospital.

Working right across Sandwell, the ICares service covers every person who has a Sandwell GP, including those who live in care homes.

Ruth recalled: "I remember the first lady I helped to stay at home at the end of her life rather than going into hospital to die.

"Her family told me later she was surrounded by her family, it was peaceful for both her and her family.

"I suppose it was inevitable I would end up in the health service as my hero growing up was my nan.

"A Sandwell woman, she had an exciting life, and always survived what life threw at her.

Difference

"She was fiercely independent, a little bit rude and worked in the NHS in the General at Birmingham when it started, until the late 70s.

"Now, every day is different, every day is a challenge and I work with great people who all want to make a difference to the people of Sandwell.

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NEWS

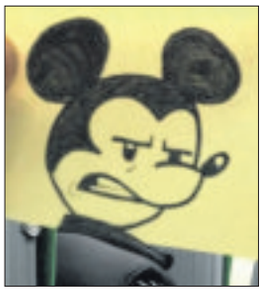
Cartoon capers just ticket for commuter

WHAT do you do to entertain yourself during the daily slog to and from work?

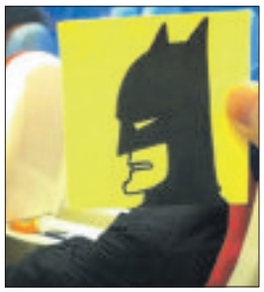
Perhaps you get stuck into a good book, read the paper, furiously try to smash your high score on Flappy Bird or maybe you have a snooze.

But one talented illustrator has found a new way to kill time on his train commute - by turning his fellow travellers into cartoon characters.

University of Wolverhampton graduate animator Joe Butcher, who is better known by his Twitter handle and pen name October Jones, has been using sticky notes and his seemingly boundless imagination to transform strangers on a train into hilarious cartoons.



Who's taking the Mickey then?



One passenger turns in Batman

Where's Wally? Right here

Spiderman takes the train

Boredom

The unwitting victims of his pranks have been given the features of beloved characters such as Batman, Spiderman, and, in one ingenious snapshot, Wile E. Coyote even appears to be chasing Road Runner.

The clever creations are doodled onto the small pieces of paper, and then held in just the right position for a funny photograph to be taken - the image is then uploaded to social network websites.

When asked on Twitter why he did took the time, Mr Butcher wrote: "I did them to combat boredom on my long commute."

He has seemingly shared his journeys with a gruff Winnie the Pooh, Danger Mouse's soft-spoken sidekick Penfold, Kermit The Frog, Daffy Duck and comic book favourite Hellboy.

People-cum-cartoons include an annoyed Mickey Mouse, with the caption: "Howdy. I'm on a train. This guy just caught me laughing at his squeaky voice."

ET the Extra Terrestrial also appears to be slightly miffed. The Twitter caption reads: "On train. Found seat. I just told this guy off for using his phone in the Quiet Zone. I don't care who he's phoning."

The drawings have been getting world-wide attention, having been reposted thousands of times on a number of social websites after initially being tweeted to October Jones' 77,000 Twitter followers. Mr Butcher, under his pseudonym, is also the mastermind behind the -popular Texts From Dog, an internet craze that has led to two published books, called Texts From Dog and The Dog Delusion, the latter being published in October.

Picture credit: @OctoberJones

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MEMORY LANE

Ready for battle – troops of 1st Parachute Squadron in action at Arnhem

Tom and comrades at barracks in Hampshire in 1939

Tom, aged 23, centre, with fellow trainee paras, in September, 1942

Tom Hicks pictured during a return to Arnhem in 2007

Soldier, soldier – Tom in his paratrooper's uniform, aged 23

Arnhem — Tom's memories of the battle for a bridge too far

by Mark Andrews

THE memories of the battle of Arnhem of Sapper Tom Hicks, who served in the 1st Parachute Squadron, are brought to life in a memoir written by his son Norman, of Kinver.

The memoir, based on personal diaries and taped recollections, paints a dramatic picture of what it was like for thousands of young men who took part in the ill-fated attempt to capture the bridge across the River Rhine in 1944.

Determination

Tom, who is now 94, describes his descent onto the landing zone at Renkum, around seven miles from Arnhem: "It took as little as 20 seconds to reach the ground and an immediate awareness came over you as you took in what was happening around and above you," he says. "Men, containers and loose debris were still rapidly descending. Looking up, the canopies were still falling around me presenting a colourful sight"

Tom's participation in Arnhem was the result of his determination to participate in the war effort. As a locomotive driver, he was in a reserved occupation and when he applied to join the Commandos he was refused leave from his railway duties. "However, he then applied to join the paras, and they were told nobody could refuse to release anybody who had applied for the paras," says his son Norman, himself a 65-year-old former RAF man.

Tom tells of how he was filled with confidence when he, along with 2,277 other paratroopers, landed at Renkum on September 17, 1944. Almost immediately it became apparent that things were not going to plan.

Only half the Reconnaissance Squadron's Jeeps arrived due to several gliders failing to make it. It was five hours before the British troops reached the key bridge over the Rhine and they were only able to control the northern end. They found themselves surrounded by German troops. Most of the group that Tom had been with during the clean-up operation at the drop zone had been killed or injured. "It was obvious to us that things were beginning to fall apart," he says.

Tom had already received a shrapnel wound to the back of his neck and during the sixth day he was hit in almost exactly the same place. "I lost the sensation in my legs and I could feel the blood running down my back," he says.

He was taken by stretcher to a house which had been converted into a makeshift first-aid station. For Tom this would mean the end of the fighting. On September 24 a medical officer came in and told the injured men that the division would be retreating across the river and that the wounded would be left behind for the Germans to take prisoner.

"I lay on the floor for two days, during which time the house was hit by shell fire several times, and some of the wounded were wounded again," says Tom. "Men were moaning and some were screaming."

On September 26, the Germans announced their arrival by poking the gun of a tank through the window of the house. 'Ha! I am the gunner of this tank, the best tank in the world,' sneered the young crewman.

An SS officer then came into the room, accompanied by three other soldiers, and inquired about the welfare of an injured SS sergeant lying next to Tom. "I could tell he was asking if we had treated him well," recalls Tom.

"'Ja, ja,' he replied, pointing at me and repeating, 'komrad, komrad', explaining that I had given him water." The SS officer surprised Tom by shaking his hand.

Tom was taken to the Stalag XIB Prisoner of War camp. "Two of my mates came into see me before they were due to attempt to break out," Tom remembers. "They left with a wave and a final 'see you Tom, when we get home'." One of those friends was Allan 'Wakey' Wake, a 19-year-old . He was shot trying to make his escape across a river — one of more than 15,000 young men who would never return.

Captured At Arnhem, from Railwayman to Paratrooper, is published by Pen & Sword Books, priced £25.

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NEWS

All the ladies love a sailor in musical fun

From left, Doreen Yates, Adam Davies-Ratcliffe and Mary Barnett are all set for the performance of HMS Pinafore

THERE will be plenty of mirth and mayhem ahoy as Walsall Gilbert & Sullivan Society sets sail for its latest show.

Members are performing the comic opera HMS Pinafore at The Forest Arts Centre in Hawbush Road, Leamore until Saturday.

Secretary Doreen Yates said: "HMS Pinafore, also known as The Lass That Loved A Sailor, is a humorous look at love between members of different social classes.

"The audience is guaranteed some real comedy as well as some spirited singing of musical numbers such as Now Give Three Cheers and Pretty Daughter of Mine."

Last year the society celebrated its 50th anniversary. The society was formed following a newspaper advert for what was then named the Gilbert and Sullivan Club Walsall and District in 1962. Those who expressed an interest were sent a letter telling them the first rehearsal would be at the Butts School on January 2, 1963. Shows were performed at Tynings Lane School in Aldridge before moving to TP Riley School in Bloxwich and later to Darlaston Town Hall in 1967.

The group later moved to Shire Oak School in Brownhills in 1984 and 1989 at Brownhills Comprehensive School, when it changed its name to Walsall Gilbert and Sullivan Society. In 2012, the society moved to the Forest Arts Centre.

Shows start at 7.30pm each night with an additional afternoon matinee on Saturday which starts at 2.30pm.

Tickets are £12 each, with concessions at £11. Tickets for the Saturday matinee are £11. To book call the Forest Arts Centre booking office hotline on 0845 111 2898. For more details and to book places visit the www.forestartscentre.co.uk website where tickets can also be booked online.

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Fundraiser and navy war hero Ben dies, aged 98

STAUNCH charity fundraiser, Navy veteran and popular local character Benjamin Haywood has died aged 98.

Former sailor Mr Haywood, who lived in Valley Road, Smethwick, walked thousands of miles to raise cash for countless charities. Mr Haywood, who walked between Land's End and John O'Groats six times, passed away at City Hospital last Monday.

by Adam Grinsell

Paying tribute to her father yesterday, 54-year-old Pam Haywood said: "He was quite a driven man, and he loved being with his family."

Born in Blackheath, he moved to Smethwick – first to Halfords Lane and then Carlton Road – before settling with his wife Stella in Valley Road. A much-decorated veteran, Mr Haywood served with the Navy for 18 years and in the Second World War served aboard the HMS Manchester.

He was in a British convoy codenamed Operation Pedestal that was set up to protect Malta in 1942. But his ship was under constant bombardment and HMS Manchester was finally sunk after being torpedoed off the Tunisian cost. Mr Haywood managed to climb aboard a raft, but was captured and he spent four months as a prisoner of war in Algeria.

He was awarded honorary citizenship of the Maltese port of Valetta for his part in the navy campaign. The great-grandfather of three became well known in Smethwick for delivering the Chronicle using an old pram. His funeral will be taking place on Wednesday, February 26 at Smethwick Old Church, The Uplands.

Barging in over bill for arts scheme

A £210,000 arts project to sail a converted barge around the West Midlands and paid for by the taxpayer has been donned ludicrous.

The publicly-funded grant from the Arts Council will help pay for part of the scheme run by the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham.

The boat, measuring 72 feet in length, will travel the region's industrial canal routes from Smethwick to Stourbridge, Sedgley to West Bromwich and Birchills to Aldridge.

Members of the Ikon Youth Programmewill be assisting in crewing the boat and leading activities. .

Jonathan Isaby, chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said it was 'ludicrous' that taxpayers were being asked to pay for it. However, Jonathan Watkins, director at Ikon, said it will be a 'wonderful adventure'.

Group marks its 10th year

A POPULAR community group has celebrated its 10th birthday with a party.

The Good Afternoon Club meets at Smethwick's Dorothy Parkes centre every Friday from 1-3.30pm.

The group is for those aged 55 and over and has amassed some 45 members.

The entertainment included a singer performing tracks from the 1950s to Simply The Best by Tina Turner.

Host of activities at event

A FAMILY fun day is being held for residents in Smethwick on Saturday. There will be a host of sporting challenges, dancing, singing, music, golf and face painting, as well as free health checks, between noon and 4pm at the Windmill Youth Centre on Messenger Road. For details email events@mytimeactive.co.uk or call 0208 323 1708.

John Wood the former president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers with the award

Steaming ahead for accolade

IT is the oldest working steam engine in the world, helping ignite the earliest days of the industrial revolution.

The Smethwick Engine was at the heart of the transformation of Birmingham at the start of 18th century, pumping enough water up the city's main canal to allow a flow of more than 200 narrow boats.

On Saturday, it was awarded an Engineering Heritage Award by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers – only the 92nd engineering artefact to be given the award.

Installed in 1779 in RolfeStreet in Smethwick, the new system provided a solution to replenishing water levels at the top of six locks at Brasshouse Lane, by taking up water from the canal at Bridge Street. It stands as the oldest working steam engine in the world at Birmingham's Thinktank.

Revamp of park to be celebrated

THE multi-million pound restoration of a park will be celebrated with a year-long series of events, it has been announced.

Lightwoods Park in Bearwood was transferred to Sandwell Council from Birmingham City Council in November 2010 and since then, the council and Friends of Lightwoods Park and House have been working on a major restoration project.

In the meantime there are a series of events being planned on the historic site through the spring and summer months, including the May Day Festival planned for the bank holiday weekend on May 5, which saw its highest visitor numbers last year when more than 20,000 people attended.

To set up a stall at the May Day event, people should call 0121 569 4740.

Boss to speak at conference

BUSINESSWOMAN Deborah Mitchell is a key speaker at an event next month aimed at inspiring others.

Ms Mitchell, who founded Shifnal-based Heaven Health and Beauty, is taking part in an International Women's Day conference on March 10 at The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield. For details visit www.junglehr.com/2014/01/international-womens-day-conference-inspiring-change/

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NEWS

Change pledged after dismal shops figures

BUSINESS chiefs have pledge that change is coming in West Bromwich after the town was named as having among the highest number of shop vacancy rates in the country.

Figures released by the Local Data Company show that 26.6 per cent of shops in the town are empty.

It means West Bromwich is the second worst performing of medium sized towns in the country.

Ninder Johal, vice president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, however said he believed West Bromwich's prospects would soon improve as the newly launched £200 million New Square shopping centre has a wider impact.

The development is co-anchored by Tesco Extra and Primark and also includes popular high street stores such as Next, Sports Direct, JD Sports and outfit, as well as an Odeon cinema.

It also includes a Greggs, Harvester, Real China, Nandos and Prezzo.

Mr Johal said: "I think the economy is improving and people generally are beginning to have more disposable income.

"The Tesco New Square scheme has also been a success and I believe we will start to see that spill out in the next few years. I think once West Bromwich has its new leisure centre, there will be a general feel-good factor and that will filter down to the shops."

Average vacancy rates in the West Midlands stood at 15.9 per cent last year, meaning it ranked as the third worst region after the North East and North West.

The regional figure was down from 16.2 per cent in 2012, but still above the national average figure of 12.2 per cent for 2013 for Britain's top 650 town centres.

Neighbouring Walsall had the highest number of empty shops in the the Midlands and the seventh highest overall in Britain last year. The number of vacant shops stood at more than one in four - or 26.7 per cent - in 2013.

Booked up for blind date

Langley Library customer Steven Martin is seen choosing a book

BOOKWORMS have the chance to fall head-over-heels for novels they might not normally choose after a library launched a 'blind date' scheme.

Staff at Langley Library have wrapped up a selection of books to obscure the cover and name of the author placing only a few descriptive words in a love heart on the front of each one. The scheme aims to encourage a love of reading for pleasure and allow avid readers the chance to try different genres.

It was launched last week to coincide with Valentine's Day and has already proved a hit with library users. Membership to the library, in Barrs Street, Oldbury, is free.

The scheme will run until the end of February. For more details call the library on 0121 552 1680

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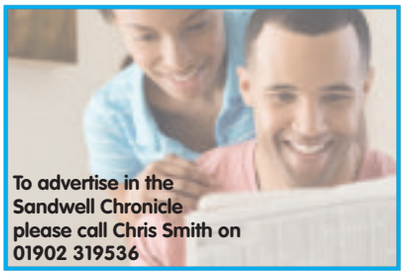

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CLUB NEWS

Quiz held to replace the speaker

GRANGE 'E' GUILD

THE monthly meeting of Grange 'E' Guild was held at Grange Court, Stourbridge on Tuesday February 4.

In the absence of the chairman Hazel Smith, Jill Attwood read the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved and signed. Jill then presented an up-to-date financial report.

Secretary Jean Williams had received thank you cards from members of West Midlands Federation and Oldswinford Guild who had attended the Christmas party saying how much they had enjoyed the evening.

Marlene O'Hanlon informed members that the next meeting of the Luncheon Club would be held at the Hollybush on Monday, March 10.

There was no speaker for the evening but one of the members, Jackie Hill, held a quiz which everyone enjoyed it with all members receiving a small gift. Thanks were given to Jackie for providing the questions.

Tea, coffee and biscuits were served by our hostess for the evening, Joan Biddlestone.

The next meeting on March 4 will be the AGM to be followed by a fish and chip supper.

The guild are recruiting for new members and visitors will be made most welcome.

For further information please contact secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439.

Ladies bring items close to their hearts

John Sparry will be the guest speaker at the next meeting

KINGSWINFORD TG

THE February meeting was very busy. The club welcomed three visitors, a new member and a member from the former Wall Heath Guild, who has decided to join.

The usual formal business being completed, names were taken for those wishing to go to the St George's Day celebration in April and for volunteers for the Federation quiz.

In an unusual evening, members were invited to bring items dear to their hearts and explain why they were so special – husbands were excluded,

There was a wide variety of things dolls, flags, a quilt, a dolls cot, even a meerschaum pipe. The reasons why they were so special were not necessarily obvious but they had constant a thread of love, family or sheer goodness of heart running through them.

This was followed by a bring and buy sale. Chris Groves won the raffle.

The next meeting is the AGM in the Community Centre on March 10. John Sparry will be the speaker.

Old friends kick off new year

CLENT GARDENING CLUB

THE Gardening Club finished off 2013 in style with a November supper in Clent parish hall.

There was a full house, a good meal and finished off the evening with entertainment from Richard Westcott who entertained everyone with his experiences as a pantomime dame.

Richard bought a few of his various outfits with him and modelled not only the outfits but also the face make-up and pantomime songs. The club began 2014 off with the AGM where the chairman Pat Orme and treasurer Julian Traves were voted in for a further 12 months. Secretary Janet Babb was replaced by Anne Hunt.

The club has a full programme for 2014 beginning on February 28 with Rob and Diane Cole, old friends of the club, with a talk entitled "Look at That".

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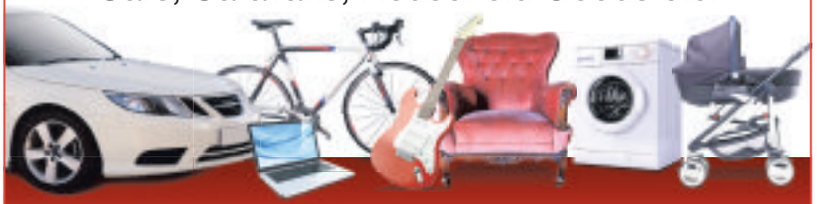

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NEWS

Smashing event is a Mecca for big day

Mecca staff members Mark Heath and Donna Powell-Jones get set for the Valentine night with the Pinata

VALENTINE'S Day has been a real big hit with some couples but a bingo hall took the idea quite literally with it's latest charity fundraiser.

Mecca Bingo in Oldbury had a heart-shaped pinata in the middle of its hall last Friday, filled with prizes in a bid to rake in prizes and raise awareness of the Carers Trust charity.

The Halesowen Street venue chose the cause as its charity of the year after Marie Curie Cancer Care was its chosen beneficiary last year.

Organisers are hoping to raise £1,000 with the pinata evening, and including bucket collections taking place throughout the week.

Staff have also been selling cupcakes from stands and playing traditional games like guess the name of the teddy bear to keep bringing in donations.

Breweries' bosses call for freeze on ale tax

BREWERY bosses in the Black Country have called on the Government to freeze or cut beer duty in this year's Budget.

Brewers at large and small companies have said such is the economic importance of the industry it is worthy of maintaining a freeze in the tax on beers. The managing director at Wolverhampton-based Marstons, Richard Westwood, has led the calls.

By Jon Pritchard

Mr Westwood said: "Last year the industry achieved a remarkable feat to stop beer tax killing beer and pubs. The scrapping of the beer duty escalator, however, was just the first hurdle.

"A long term freeze in beer duty would ensure the continuing growth of the brewing industry and certainly help many pubs across the country.",

Meanwhile Alan Preece, from Green Duck Brewery in Stourbridge, said he would like them to go one step further and cut for the second year running. Last year, George Osborne axed the proposed 3p rise and cut the duty by 1p, which delighted landlords and breweries across the country.

Mr Preece said: "I would rather see it cut again. The beer duty is a killer. It affects pubs and if they are affected then we are. It's really high and it makes the price of a pint look expensive. People will usually think that it is the landlords' fault or the brewer but a a massive chunk of it is beer duty."

Austin Morgan, from Backyard Brewery in Brownhills, said the beer duty makes life awkward for breweries. He said: "It's not an immediate tax because the people who drink in pubs don't just stop going. Say for instance they drink 10 pints a week. They probably won't notice it straight away but after a month or six weeks they will.

"The people don't just stop drinking but they will slow down a little."

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NEWS

Love blossomed out of wartime hardship

Barbara and Eric Smith, aged 88 and 92 respectively, both of Malvern Road, Oldbury, who marked their 70th anniversary

A YOUNG romance which began against the backdrop of war has endured for a couple to celebrate 70 years of wedded bliss.

Teenage sweethearts Barbara and Eric Smith, now aged 88 and 92, marked their platinum wedding anniversary with family and friends last Wednesday.

The Oldbury couple first met as teenagers and began a wartime romance. During the Battle of Britain in 1940, Mr Smith served as a wireless mechanic with the RAF. He was injured when the airfield he was based at near Dover was bombed.

He lodged with his future wife's family in St John Road, Oldbury, while on leave from the RAF.

The couple began courting and would go for walks, until one day Mr Smith popped the question and asked her to marry him. She said: "I said yes and he kissed me."

The two married at Oldbury Parish Church on February 12 1944.

Just three months after they were married, Mr Smith was assigned to serve on India. He returned to England in 1946 and met his 13-month-old daughter Christine for the first time.

The happy couple on their big day

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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1080517

NEWS

Hearts highlight what love is at launch event

Pc Ashley Coulson, lead nurse Sue Wilson, Trust chief Sara Ward, and Maryrose Lappin of Sandwell Women's Aid

A NEW domestic abuse campaign launched in Sandwell, with the message 'Love shouldn't hurt'.

The aim is to raise public awareness of the issue and how victims can get help and support in dealing with it.

The campaign includes a new poster, which features a heart-shaped word cloud with common phrases victims say perpetrators of domestic abuse use. The poster has the strapline – 'This isn't love. Love shouldn't hurt'.

Sandwell's Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership came together to launch the year-long campaign which will be promoted across Sandwell. They held a special launch event at New Square, West Bromwich, on Valentine's Day, last Friday, where information was available and shoppers were asked to write down what they think love is on heart-shaped pieces of paper for a display.

Sandwell Council, Sandwell Women's Aid, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust and West Midlands Police want to encourage victims who are experiencing domestic abuse to seek support.

One in four women (and one in six men) in the UK will be a victim of domestic violence during their lifetime, according to research estimates. Two women a week are killed by a current or former male partner.

Domestic abuse can include physical violence, threatening or controlling words or behaviour, 'put downs' and attempts to undermine self-esteem.

People who are experiencing domestic abuse and need help and support should contact Sandwell Women's Aid on 0121 552 6448.

There is also the free 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247. In an emergency, call 999.

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For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.*

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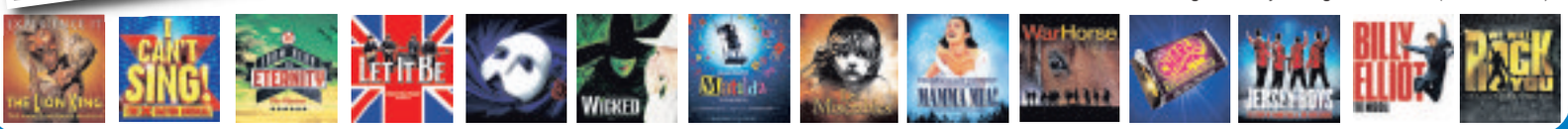

For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

NEWS

Art of the matter for young

A CREATIVE arts project has been helping young people in Sandwell to connect with the wider community.

The Intermix Project, run by youth charity Rathbone and the Odd Theatre Company, brings young people together with artists to explore issues that matter to them in their communities.

Sixteen youngsters took part in Sandwell, and interviewed the public on what they thought about young people and the problems they face, before writing and performing a play about the issues raised. Hayley Stevens, progression coach for Rathbone in Sandwell, said: "This project aims to raise public awareness on how young people are perceived and also show our learners how negative behaviour affects local people's views of young people.

"It also aims to develop our learners' personal skills and confidence." The artwork created by the young people, and more information about the Intermix Project, can be found online at http://intermix.uk.com/

Wages £20k short of costs to buy house

PEOPLE on average wages in some parts of the West Midlands would need to earn more than £20,000 extra a year to keep up with soaring house prices, according to the latest research.

Figures from charity Shelter reveal that wage increases have fallen dramatically behind rising house prices over the past 16 years. A single person in the Black Country would need to be on average a salary of £37,399 to afford the same house they could have bought in the 1990s on the equivalent wages of the time, this equates to £15,389 on top of the average £22,010 earnings.

Dudley MP Ian Austin said: "These figures show how high house prices have become, and how difficult it is for hard-working families in the Black Country to achieve their dream.

"I helped get funds for new homes that have been built on Priory Road, the Wrens Nest and in Gornal, but that's still not enough for huge demand. I want the Government to make an ambitious commitment to building 200,000 new homes, and I want as many as possible of those to replace derelict land."

Natasha Millward, Labour candidate for Dudley South said: "The Help to Buy Scheme pumps up demand, but does nothing to increase housing supply. As a result house prices rocket, and people get shunted into the private rental sector. In turn, increased demand for rented homes, triggers higher rents.

Campbell Robb, of Shelter, said: "When you'd need to more than double your salary just to keep up with rising house prices, it is no surprise that the dream of a home of their own is slipping further out of reach for a generation. Politicians need to start meeting people halfway by committing to bold solutions that will get more affordable homes built." "

Crate expectations for youngsters

Park Hill Primary School pupils with Rotarian Steve Dale

PUPILS at primary schools in a Black Country borough have been working with the Rotary Club and doing their bit for people in disaster zones across the world.

Students from five schools in Sandwell have been helping Wednesbury Rotary Club collect items for their Aqua Box appeal and have so far created six crates that will one day help people following a war or a disaster. Students at Park Hill School in Wednesbury helped load up their box with the 74 items that are crammed into each crate.

Steve Dale, of Wednesbury Rotary Club said: "The work that the children have done is absolutely fantastic. "This shows that at a time when money is tight people are still willing to go out their way to help others."

The boxes that are collected from Rotary Clubs across the UK, will be shipped to disaster zones include everything from toiletries, water filters and food to tools and even toys and teddy bears. Last year more than 600 boxes were sent to the Philippines following the Typhoon.

Rambling on

EAGER ramblers are being urged to sign up for a woodland walk in the Wyre Forest this weekend. West Bromwich Ramblers have two routes on Sunday of six and eight miles, after meeting at West Bromwich Town Hall at 9am. Ring 0121 358 6591.

New names for festival

A NUMBER of new acts have been announced for Birmingham's Wireless Festival. J Cole, rapper 2 Chainz and Australian electro duo Knife Party have all been confirmed for the event, due in Perry Park on July 4, 5 and 6.

Headliner Kanye West has already been confirmed as performing on the final day, the Sunday, along with chart-topper Pharrell Williams and dance act Basement Jaxx.

More acts are expected to be announced soon.

In store for fitness with gym proposal

A £1.5 MILLION plan to convert a former convenience store in Quinton into a fitness centre creating 24 jobs has been lodged.

Surrey-based Competition Line UK Ltd has submitted proposals for the old Co-operative store in Hagley Road West, which has been empty for four years.

The building would be converted to create an open plan gymnasium, a ladies-only gymnasium and a spinning studio as well as changing rooms. There would also be saunas, steam rooms and a disabled wet room as well space for dance, aerobics and spinning classes.

The car park would be revamped to provide around 67 spaces and racks for 16 bicycles.

The business, which is near the Reel Cinema, would create 12 full-time and 12 part-time jobs. A planning application has been submitted to Dudley Council for a change of use of the premises from retail to a fitness suite.

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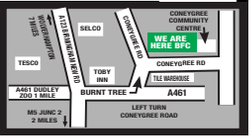

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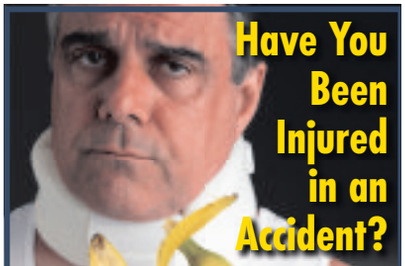

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On the Maple Leaf Trail travel first to Ottawa, Canada's capital and enjoy some free time before continuing to Montreal, Canada's second city. Here an optional guided tour and Maple delights and dinner excursion are offered.

Quebec city is also visited which is one of Canada's oldest settlements with its stunning Chateau Frontenac ancient ramparts and UNESCO-listed centre.

This trip is taken from Newmarket's America and Canada brochure which includes many other destinations.

Special discount offer applies for bookings made before February 28, 2014, see brochure for details.

INFO

- Return flights
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PRICE FROM £109

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Chelsea Flower Show and Windsor

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Special discount offer for bookings made before February 28, 2014, see brochure for details

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

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Four days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £269

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Return rail connection to London (selected dates)
- Return coach transfers overseas
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided sightseeing tours of Paris by day and night
- Visits to Versailles and Montmartre
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)

NEWS

Dad with diabetic sons takes message to MPs

A FATHER has been chosen to speak at the House of Commons about how his young sons live with a severe form of diabetes.

Lee Bates from West Bromwich will represent JRDF, the type one diabetes charity at the Type One Parliament on March 11.

His sons Alfie, aged five, and Charlie, three, both attend Moorlands Primary School and each of them have the condition.

Mr Bates, of Schofield Avenue, will be one of 60 adults and children whose lives are affected by type one diabetes to and have been selected from across the country to represent their 'constituencies'.

The exact cause of type one diabetes is unknown, but it is not linked to lifestyle or diet.

A child diagnosed with it at the age of five faces up to 19,000 insulin injections and 50,000 finger prick tests by the time they are 18.

Diabetes sufferers Alfie and Charlie Bates

Diagnosis

The condition affects 400,000 people in the UK – equivalent to more than 600 people in every parliamentary constituency – and incidence is growing rapidly, particularly in those under five years old.

One of the most high-profile sufferers in Great Britain is home secretary and long-standing Conservative politician, Theresa May.

Mr Bates, aged 36, said: "Alfies's diagnosis when he was only 20 months old was a very difficult time for the family.

"Then for lightning to strike twice and Charlie to be diagnosed at only 30 months old was devastating.

"It means they can't always be carefree like other children can.

"It was very exciting to hear that I had been chosen to represent all those in our area living with the condition at Type 1 Parliament.

"Going to the House of Commons and talking to MPs will be a wonderful experience and a great opportunity to really make a difference."

Karen Addington, chief executive of JDRF, said: "Type one diabetes doesn't have to hold you back in life. But it is a very challenging condition to live with.

"The Government must respond to increasing rates of type one diabetes in the UK by investing more in research to treat, prevent and cure the condition. That's why we're taking our message to Westminster in March," she said.

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Local retailer wins gold at National Awards Ceremony

The awards are designed to reward and recognise not only the products and innovation that keep the DIY and garden sector exciting, but also the retailers and people who make our industry great.

The event honoured the whole of the DIY and garden market: DIY superstores, hardware independents, garden centres, suppliers, manufacturers and wholesalers.

It was held during the Totally DIY and Totally Tools exhibition and DIY Week publisher Datateam has pledged its support to the Rainy Day Trust to a greater extent, helping to raise funds for the vital industry charity.

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REVIEW

Fiddler and city singer make for a great show

UNFORTUNATELY it wasn't the best turn out at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton to see two fine performances – one of which from a Wolverhampton lad who is really starting to make ripples on the local folk/acoustic scene.

It's sad really, because the centre in Dunkley Street, Whitmore Reans, is a real resource that is not only under threat but is underused and should be a jewel in the city's crown.

What the impressive venue does is bring wonderful acts such as the incredible Newcastle fiddler Tom McConville accompanied by Perthshire's Andy Watt right to your doorstep.

McConville, who looks a little like Victor Meldrew with a fiddle, produces some really gorgeous sounds though his instrument with such ease and fluidity.

He opened with a song from fellow Northerner and former Lindisfarne man, Billy Mitchell. With Home Where Me Heart Lives, he got the audience involved straight away with the refrain.

Right from the start you can see McConville's expertise on the fiddle, his movements up and down the positions as he plays are hypnotic and his finger play mirrors the flow and smoothness of the execution of Tai Chi. All this goes to produce a gorgeous and rich sound.

After a little self-deprecating banter and some gentle goading of the audience he moved into an Irish country sound. For his next song One Last Smile by Alan Taylor. This was another soft ballad which was made all the more enjoyable by being nicely supported by Watt's guitar and McConville's sparing use of his fiddle where is was a case of less is more.

Wolverhampton musician Daniel Kirk

Newcastle fiddler Tom McConville

His rendition of Mrs Elspeth Hardie from Ian Hardie had a gorgeous opening and he produced a beautiful slow air on the fiddle.

Daniel Kirk

In contrast to McConville, who has decades of experience under his belt, Daniel Kirk is at the opening of his musical career and with his talent it IS going to be a career. His distinctive voice is easy on the ear and able to convey emotion wonderfully. Kirk already has an impressive album under his belt, Navigation, which doesn't have a weak track on it. His voice has elements of Labi Siffre with just the occasional smidgen of Bruce Springsteen.

He incorporates Americana into his playlists very smoothly with songs such as Alabama Pine. Kirk was back for at the arts centre for the second time in a month after making a big impression at the Folk Lounge which was put together by fellow local musician and friend Faye Brookes.

Kirk looks and sounds every bit the professional and his days as a support act are numbered.

Danny Farragher

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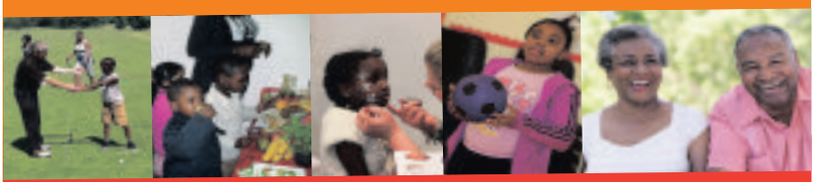

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REVIEWS

You can have faith in Jackson's raw talent

Fumes and Faith
Luke Jackson

HE may still be classed as a teenager but there is nothing immature about Luke Jackson's second album Fumes and Faith.

The prolific Jackson has written all 11 tracks on this disc which leads you to believe the guy is dripping in talent.

F&F doesn't have that grab you by the ears sound to open with but as the first track Sister unfolds, it gradually draws you in until you find yourself coming to a standstill feeling almost compelled to listen.

Jackson, from Cambridge builds the layers on this song mixing the feel of both Delta and urban blues and often blurring the lines between any distinction.

He slides into a soft ballad, Father and Son, which is full of emotion. The title track tells the story of the hidden underbelly of society.

Answers Have Gone proves what a great voice Jackson has for blues.

He really slows things down with Out Of Time which is a thoughtful and reflective ballad that again uses minimal accompaniment.

His singing has that morose quality similar to the haunting sound of Kris Drever.

Father's Footsteps stands out because it sounds like the real Jackson, as though he has shrugged off any influences and allowed his raw persona free reign.

The versatility of Jackson's singing really shines with Charlie in the Big World Now.

Down to the Sea is so full of human emotion as it recalls younger days. Fumes and Faith is on the Pipe Records label and is out now and on February 26 Luke plays the Red Lion Folk Club, Kings Heath, Birmingham.

Danny Farragher

Luke Jackson who has just released his second album Fumes and Faith

Masters of Their Craft
Various artists

This album gives almost a double dose of everything in Irish music from the past 30 odd years.

There are 18 tracks covering the broad spectrum from the traditional to tunes which have been fused with other and more contemporary styles and spans the three decades Irish label Tara music has been associated with them.

What's more with artists such as Planxty, Christy Moore, Liam O'Flynn and Clannad it's also a good introduction to anyone who wants to catch up on the modern history of Irish music.

Masters of Their Craft does exactly what it says on the label, it offers a wide and deep venture into the colourful and intricate tapestry of Irish music and showcases those who have championed the sound of Ireland all over the world.

Masters of Their Craft is available now from Tara Music see their website www.taramusic.com.

All Life is Here
Harp and a Monkey

This is the second offering from Manchester trio Harp and a Monkey who are Simon Jones, Andy Smith and Martin Purdy

This a wonderfully traditionally-untraditional collection of songs which have built-in nostalgia and the ability to make you feel like a kid again.

Purdy is somewhere between a singer and a ranter he has the sound which is a more lyrical version of John Cooper Clarke. He expresses this in tracks such as The Manchester Angel, a wonderful narrative about the path of true love.

Family life comes under the spotlight with Tupperware and Tinfoil and Bolton's Yard is based on a 19th century poem and has the cadence of a nursery rhyme. Most of the songs are coloured by Smith and Jones and the eclectic mix of instruments they play.

All Life is Here is released March 24 for more information visit www.harpandamonkey.com.

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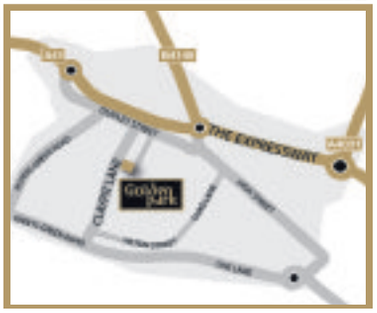

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NEWS in brief

Jail for motorist in fatal collision

AN uninsured hit-and-run driver who killed a father of four has been jailed.

Majid Bashir, was sentenced to four years and nine months in prison after admitting killing Stephen Chappell from Great Barr last year. The 39-year-old was driving his wife's Nissan Micra on the afternoon of January 30 when he hit Mr Chappell, 49, on Bordesley Green Road in Birmingham and left him for dead.

Bashir was charged with failing to stop at the scene of an accident, aggravated vehicle taking, dangerous driving and causing death by driving a vehicle whilst the driver is unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured.

Bashir, from Sparkhill, pleaded guilty at a hearing in Octobert.

Praise for lord in smoking ban call

A LORD who proposed a ban on smoking in cars carrying children has won praise from a council health chief.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath was praised by Birmingham Councillor Steve Bedser after The House of Commons voted in favour of a Labour-supported amendment – proposed by the Birmingham peer – to the Children and Families Bill by a majority of 269.

Birmingham's health and wellbeing chief Councillor Bedser said: "This is just fantastic news. The pioneering step taken by Birmingham's very own Lord Philip Hunt has resulted in common sense prevailing."

Heritage chiefs hold fire on backing hall scheme

BOSSES at English Heritage have said they will reserve their opinion on the controversial decision to turn Great Barr Hall into a multi-million pound hotel and conference centre until an in-depth review is completed.

The announcement comes after a six-page statement was released locally by Peter Allen, secretary of Great Barr Hall Action Committee, suggesting that English Heritage, among others, supported the application. But West Bromwich MP, Tom Watson has said that he has been in talks with the group's chief.

Mr Watson met Simon Thurley, chief executive of English Heritage about the Grade II listed building off Chapel Lane, and he has confirmed they are still considering all options for the building and surrounding land.

He said it had also been confirmed that the organisation would be reserving their position on the application until they had been able to review all of the relevant information in the submission.

Mr Watson added: "I am pleased to hear that English Heritage has not made a final decision on the application but will be looking to submit their views soon. There has been a great deal of misinformation circulating that they had formed a view in support of the application."

He also said that the deteriorating condition of both the grade II listed hall and its grade II registered park had long been a cause of concern to English Heritage.

Developers BCG Lakes and Lapworth Architects want to convert the derelict hall, which has stood empty on the Walsall-Sandwell border since 1978, into a hotel and conference venue, along with 57 homes.

Michael Lapworth, of Lapworth Architects, has insisted 'robust and extensive' consultation had already been carried out into the £20 million scheme.

Recently more than 150 residents attended a public meeting to discuss the future of the hall after campaigners called for answers from heritage chiefs and the developers behind the project so they could thrash out a number of concerns.

Move to mark former base

A FORMER council headquarters demolished to make way for a £3 million fire station will be honoured at the new site.

A new fire station is being on the site of the old Rowley Regis and Warley council municipal buildings in Old Hill.

It will serve both Halesowen and Cradley Heath after a controversial merger plan was pursued by fire service bosses.

The building, at the junction of Halesowen Road and Barrs Road, had been sold off by Sandwell Council.

Building work on the new station, next to Haden Hill Leisure Centre, is well under way ready for opening in May.

West Midlands Fire Authority chairman and Sandwell Councillor John Edwards confirmed the former council building's location will be marked in some way.

Officials had looked into the possibility of reclaim some stone from the old building but due to weathering this was not possible. But Councillor Edwards told a meeting of the authority: "t was the source of some pride for the area so we did want to reflect that in the new fire station in a way that will be recognisable and appreciated by those people."

B.A.T. to the past with trays

Richard Percival seen with his beer trays collection

THE mystery over a long-closed brewery tray manufacturer has been solved thanks to an article in the Express & Star.

When avid tray collector Richard Percival put out a call for help with his research over the mysterious Smethwick-based B.A.T Co, readers came to his aid.

Mr Percival, who did not even know what B.A.T stood for, can now complete the research for his website after former employees told him their stories of working at and living near the Birmingham Advertising Tablet Co on Mafeking Road.

Following an article which appeared in the Express & Star, Mr Percival, aged 52, had calls from two people who worked there. He said: "I had a call from a lady called Jean, who worked there from when she was 15 until it closed in 1966.

"She told me it was the Birmingham Advertising Tablet Company Ltd, which for the first time in my life made me think 'yes, that's it'. She told me what she did there and what a lovely company she worked for."

Anyone with any B.A.T Co trays that they would be willing to sell to Mr Percival can call 01664 464883.

Officer is accused over data disclosure

A POLICE officer has appeared in court charged with passing on intelligence taken from force computers to friends.

Andrew Thompson, a Police Community Support officer for the Sandwell area, is accused of misconduct in public office.

The 43-year-old of Charter Road Tipton, who was employed by the West Midlands Police, was arrested on October 17 last year by officers from the force's counter corruption unit.

He appeared at Cannock Magistrates Court on Friday with three others who are charged with conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office.

They were Barry Parkes, aged 58, and Marie Parkes, aged 51, both of Weston Drive, Tipton, along with Brian Baker, of HMP Birmingham in Winson Green, who is on remand from Wolverhampton Crown Court for supplying a Class A drug.

The offences are alleged to have taken place in September and October of last year. No pleas were taken.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Deb Edmonds said: "The allegation involves the leakage of intelligence obtained from WMP secure intelligence systems. The officer's arrest was jointly made along with three members of the public who were arrested for procuring misconduct in a public office." All four were committed to Stafford Crown Court for the next hearing on March 7.

What's On!

Slam Dunk rock festival at Civic

ROCKERS The All American Rejects will headline a popular music festival in Wolverhampton this year.

The Slam Dunk Festival attracted 5,000 people to the Wolverhampton Civic last year and organisers are hoping for even more this time around. The seven-stage event combines outdoor and indoor stages across the city.

Canterbury, Letlive, Bury Tomorrow, The Ghost Inside and Crown The Empire are also among the bands to perform in the festival's ninth year. The touring festival also takes place in Leeds and in Hertfordshire over three days in May, with the bands due to converge on Wolverhampton on Bank Holiday Monday, May 26. Tickets start from £38.50. All three dates sold out last year.

Fizzogs' panto time again... ay it

IRREPRESSIBLE Black Country comics The Fizzogs are back on the road with their characters the Froggatts and Cotterills presenting A Black Country Fairytale... Ay It!

Some of the area's best comedy talent combine for the show at Wolverhampton's Newhampton Arts Centre, in Dunkley Street, tonight and tomorrow. Tickets cost £12 and the show starts at 7.30pm.

For more information on Sue, Jackie, Deb and co's comic adventures, including their old lady hip hop flashmob in Birmingham city centre, see their website: www.fizzogproductions.co.uk

The memories come flooding back for Grand star Denise

Musical Reyes of the sun

AT this year's Grammy awards The Gipsy Kings — at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tomorrow — shared the Best World Music Album award with South Africa's Ladysmith Black Mambazo for their first album in six years, Savor Flamenco.

Based in the Camargue region of southern France, the Gipsy Kings are made up of musicians from two families–the Reyes from Arles and the Baliardos from Montpellier. In the 1960s Jose Reyes was singing with acclaimed flamenco guitarist Manitas de Plata. He then had his own band, Los Reyes, with his sons. When Jose died in 1979, Nicolas and Andre began playing with the Baliardos.

Los Reyes means 'The Kings' and the band became The Gipsy Kings, creating a musical style 'Rumba Flamenca' combining traditional flamenco with pop, Latin and jazz.

Grammy award winners The Gipsy Kings are coming to Wolverhampton

WEST End star and TV presenter Denise Van Outen brings her new one-woman show to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this week.

Co-written by Terry Ronald with musical supervision by Kylie Minogue's musical collaborator, Steve Anderson, Some Girl I Used To Know is described as an uplifting look at modern womanhood set to songs of the 1980s and 90s.

It follows high-flying Stephanie Canworth on a musical journey down memory lane. She has it all — a successful career, supportive husband and is a media darling but a Facebook poke from an old flame bring memories flooding back.

Strictly

Denise Van Outen's stage performances include Tell Me On A Sunday, Chicago, Rent: Remixed and Legally Blonde, and her television roles include Mary in Hotel Babylon, Michaela in The Empress' New Clothes, Leigh Jackson in Babes in the Wood and Kim Blakeney in Where the Heart Is. Last year she was runner-up in Strictly Come Dancing.

The play with music is staged for three nights at the Lichfield Street theatre from tonight to Saturday, plus a Saturday matinee. Tickets start at £14.50 and the box office can be contacted on 01902 429212.

There are more musical memories at the Grand on Sunday when David Alacey, Des Coleman and Paul Drakeley star as Frank, Sammy and Dean, bringing back the music of the kings of swing, the Rat Pack, by recreating a classic Las Vegas show featuring My Way, Mr Bojangles at That's Amore. Special guest is song and dance man Kenny Lynch.

Rod Stewart Musical Tonight's The Night, written by We Will Rock You's Ben Elton, is at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre Monday to Saturday featuring Sugababe Jade Ewen.

Stage star Denise Van Outen

Jazz man with a famous name

HAVING one of the most famous actors on the planet for a father must be a challenge when you are trying to forge your own career but jazz composer and bass player Kyle Eastwood has managed to escape Clint's shadow.

Now in his 40s, and originally inspired by his father's jazz record collection, Kyle Eastwood has recorded six albums as a band leader and long ago left California to live in Paris. He and his band won acclaim for their latest album The View From Here, winning favourable comparisons with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers.

They will be in concert at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Saturday, April 26. Tickets cost £18 (£16 concessions). Call the box office on 01902 321321.

Zombies and Wytches alert

KEY gigs this week include singer-songwriters Newton Faulkner and Sam Brookes tonight at Birmingham 02 Academy. Black Country baggy rockers The Twang are at the Wulfrun on Saturday while Rizzle Kicks play the O2 Academy.

Beyonce brings her award-winning show to the LG Arena on Sunday. Rudimental are on stage at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Tuesday, the same day Spencer Davis returns with The Zombies, The Animals, The Yardbirds and Maggie Bell at Symphony Hall. Rising stars The Wytches play the Sunflower Lounge on Smallbrook Queensway on Thursday, February 27.

star extra TRAVEL

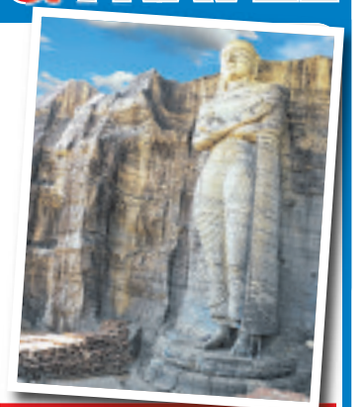
Sri Lanka

Join this comprehensive tour and discover the delights of old Ceylon with its sacred caves, ancient temples and lost cities, ending with two days relaxing on one of Sri Lanka's idyllic tropical beaches. Travel on return scheduled flights from London Heathrow and stay in charming hand-picked three-star hotels, with daily breakfast and dinner included.

One of the first adventures on the itinerary is the famous Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage which boasts a herd of over 75 animals from matriarchs to calves and their daily bath in the river provides a stunning photo opportunity.

Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 22.02.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Tom Jones

The Voice UK
BBC1, 7pm
While Will's team, including Anna McLuckie, Femi Santiago, James Byron, Jermain Jackman and Sophie-May Williams are all hoping they have the right stuff to go all the way to the final, even that is no guarantee of post-series success. Of course anything can happen during this latter stage of the blind auditions, and with new mentors – Kylie and Ricky Wilson – shaking things up in recent weeks, it looks like regulars Tom Jones and Will.i.am have their work cut out if they're going to keep their turns in the game and stand a chance of winning.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **3.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **5.55** BBC News; Weather.
6.15 Pointless Celebrities. A TV cooks special, with Rustie Lee, Antony Worrall Thompson, Theo Randall, Rachel Allen, Jean-Christophe Novelli, Paul Rankin, Aaron Craze and John Whaite. (R)
7.00 The Voice UK. The final round of blind auditions – the last chance for the remaining hopefuls to win a place on Kylie Minogue, Will.i.am, Tom Jones or Ricky Wilson's teams.
8.30 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers list what they know about given subjects. Including the National Lottery draws with Gaby Roslin. Last in the series.
9.20 Casualty. Fletch's daughter runs away from home and lands herself in danger, Robyn has to discover why a teenage girl is lying and a woman is brought in after tripping over a paving stone.
10.10 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Chelsea v Everton at Stamford Bridge and Arsenal v Sunderland at the Emirates Stadium; National Lottery Update.
11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games.
1.15 Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

7.15 Film: The Magic Box. (1951) **9.00** Live Winter Olympics. Coverage on the 15th and penultimate day of the Games. **11.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.00** Flog It! Trade Secrets. (R) **12.30** Live Winter Olympics. Further coverage of the penultimate day of the Games in Russia. **4.00** Live Winter Olympics. The men's alpine skiing slalom. **4.50** Final Score. **5.05** Live Winter Olympics. Further coverage of the men's alpine skiing slalom. **5.35** Final Score.
6.00 Live Winter Olympics. The live coverage from Russia continues at the Sliding Centre Sanki in Krasnaya Polyana, with Clare Balding introducing the second run in the men's four-man bobsleigh competition. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
7.10 Winter Olympics: Today at the Games. Highlights from the 15th day of the Games in Russia.
8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May demonstrate their love of small cars with a trip to Ukraine. (R)
9.00 The Lost Portrait of Bonnie Prince Charlie: A Culture Show Special. Bendor Grosvenor tries to track down a missing painting of Charles Edward Stuart by artist Allan Ramsay in the hope of unravelling one of the greatest mysteries in British art.
10.00 QI XL. With Katy Brand, Sue Perkins and David Mitchell.
10.45 Film: There Will Be Blood. (2007) Historical drama, starring Daniel Day-Lewis.
1.15 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.30** ITV News. **11.40** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **12.10** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **1.05 Film:** Casino Royale. (1967) **3.35** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.
6.00 The Cube: Celebrity Special. Boxer David Haye and I'm a Celebrity 2013 winner Kian Egan set out to complete a series of fiendishly difficult challenges and win thousands for charity. Phillip Schofield presents.
7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. New series. The Geordie duo return with the entertainment show. Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langsford take part in I'm a Celebrity Get Out of Me Ear, and Michael Buble performs.
8.20 Take Me Out. Mr Wales 2013, a semi-pro wrestler, a champagne importer and a cleaner try to impress the panel and win a date to the Isle of Fernandos. Last in the series.
9.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host subjects another batch of celebrity guests to no-holds-barred questioning. Plus, musical performances by A-list bands and solo artists.
10.50 ITV News; Weather.
11.05 Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift. (2006)
1.00 Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.35 The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** How I Met Your Mother. **12.00** How I Met Your Mother. **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.15 Superstar Dogs: Countdown to Crufts. A German shepherd, a border collie and a Labrador-Staffie cross compete.
6.45 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The Restoration Man. George Clarke follows a couple's project to transform a derelict flint mill in Stone, Staffordshire, and uncovers the link between the building and the work of Josiah Wedgwood. (R)
8.00 Walking Through History: North Norfolk. Tony Robinson learns about Victorian Norfolk during a coastal journey. Last in the series.
9.00 Hostages. Ellen sneaks away to meet a family friend who may be able to help her.
9.55 Film: Transporter 3. (2008) Underworld courier Frank Martin transports the kidnapped daughter of a crooked government minister across Europe. Action thriller sequel, with Jason Statham.
11.55 Film: Cop Land. (1997)
1.45 Boss. **2.45** One Minute Past Midnight. (R) **2.55** One Born Every Minute. (R) **3.55** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.15 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop. (2009) **12.00 Film:** Sabrina. (1995) Romantic comedy remake, with Harrison Ford and Julia Ormond. **2.25** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **3.25 Film:** Columbo: A Bird in the Hand. (1992) **5.20 Film:** Columbo: The Most Crucial Game. (1972)
6.40 5 News Weekend.
6.45 NCIS. A sailor's body is discovered in a disused restaurant, and his death is initially ascribed to an accidental drug overdose – but Abby discovers evidence suggesting he was murdered. (R)
7.30 NCIS. A nuclear power plant inspector suffers radiation poisoning, forcing the team to consider the possibility that a foreign power deliberately targeted him. (R)
8.30 The NCIS Movie: Legend. Feature-length episode. The agents travel to LA to work with another NCIS team on an investigation that escalates into a high-priority case, and Tony begins to pry into Ziva's life. (R)
10.10 Film: Nora Roberts' Midnight Bayou. (2009) Premiere. An attorney investigates the dark history of his mansion to discover the truth behind a haunting. Supernatural romantic drama, with Jerry O'Connell and Lauren Stamile.
12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Benidorm ER. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes: Revenge of the Fifth **7.15** Doctor Who **8.00** Doctor Who: The Ultimate Guide **9.00 Film:** Little Fockers (2010) **10.30** Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 Wild China **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of South America **9.00** Salamander **10.40** Ultimate Number 1s at the BBC **11.40** Forever Young – How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up
ITV2
3.40 Brit Awards 2014 **5.55 Film:** The Perfect Man (2005) **8.00 Film:** Ocean's Eleven (2001) **10.20** Celebrity Juice: Saturday Night Takeaway Special **11.10 Film:** Hannibal (2001)
ITV3
3.50 Film: Clockwise (1986) **5.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Vera **11.00** A Touch of Frost
ITV4
2.10 Film: The Appaloosa (1966) **4.15** Storage Wars **5.20 Film:** Superman II (1980) **7.55** Hornblower. First of a two-part seafaring drama, starring Ioan Gruffudd. **10.00 Film:** Above the Law (1988)
E4
3.30 The Big Bang Theory **4.30** Rude(ish) Tube **5.30** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00 Film:** Airplane! (1980) **10.50** Rude Tube **11.50** The Big Bang Theory
Film4
3.10 Carry On Up the Khyber (1968) **4.55** Coraline (2009) **6.55** The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) **9.00** Babylon AD (2008) **10.45** Carriers (2009)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 23.02.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Laura Main

Call the Midwife
BBC1, 8pm
Babies, medical emergencies, period costumes – no wonder this series continues to clean up in the ratings, it's got all the ingredients you could possibly want from a Sunday night drama. And for anyone who thinks it might benefit from a little more romance, you're in for a treat this week as Trixie catches the eye of the local curate, Tom. While we normally wouldn't have thought Nonnatus House's resident blonde bombshell would be the type to have her head turned by a clergyman, she's thrilled when he asks her to join him for a day of cricket.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** The Indian Doctor. (R) **2.55** Flog It! Trade Secrets. (R) **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Deadly 60 on a Mission: Pole to Pole. **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)
6.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
6.30 Blandings. Clarence and Connie's terrifying sister Charlotte arrives – and threatens to stay for good.
7.00 Countryfile. From the Isle of Portland off the Dorset coast, where Matt Baker explores its three lighthouses and Julia Bradbury visits the famous Portland Stone quarries. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 Call the Midwife. Trixie is excited when a local curate invites her on a date, Shelagh has finally decided what she wants in life and Patsy works tirelessly to diagnose a docker's unusual symptoms.
9.00 The Musketeers. Porthos is sentenced to death for murder, then swiftly abducted by a gang from the slums, leaving the other Musketeers to infiltrate this dangerous district to find their friend.
10.00 BBC News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Liverpool v Swansea City.
11.35 Film: The Devil's Double. (2011) Premiere. Fact-based drama, starring Dominic Cooper.
1.15 Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Bachelor Knight. (1947) **7.30** Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Live Winter Olympics. Coverage of the final day of the Games in Russia. **2.30** Live Winter Olympics. A look back at the 22nd staging of the Winter Olympics. **4.00** Live Winter Olympics Closing Ceremony. The 22nd Winter Olympics are officially brought to a close.
7.00 Hunt vs Lauda: F1's Greatest Racing Rivals. Documentary using archive footage and interviews with key players to chart the battle between Britain's James Hunt and Austria's Niki Lauda for the 1976 world drivers' championship. (R)
8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson drives the hand-crafted Touring Superleggera Disco Volante and Richard Hammond experiences the Mercedes-Benz G63 AMG 6x6.
9.00 Dragons' Den. Aspiring entrepreneurs pitch ideas including a glow-in-the-dark sportswear brand, a uniquely shaped energy-saving device and a confidence-building children's toy.
10.00 Alan Davies Apres-Ski. The comedian and his guests give their take on the latest from Sochi. Last in the series. (R)
10.30 Line of Duty. Denton gathers compromising evidence to use against AC-12. (R)
11.30 Film: Of Time and the City. (2008) Documentary in which film-maker Terence Davies examines how his home city of Liverpool has changed.
12.45 Film: Silkwood. (1983) **2.50** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.45** Holby City. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Countrywise. **11.45** Inside the National Trust. **12.45 Film:** Evil Under the Sun. (1982) **3.00 Film:** On Her Majesty's Secret Service. (1969) **5.50** Regional Programme ; Weather.
6.00 ITV News; Weather.
6.15 Dancing on Ice. With only five stars left in the competition, the pressure increases tonight as they must all skate twice, including a routine without the support of their professional partners. The results are at 8.30pm.
7.45 All Star Family Fortunes. McFly bassist Dougie Poynter and 1980s pop star Sinitta team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity.
8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. A battle for the last place in the semi-final.
9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry organises a patriotic concert to raise money for the troops, and having offered to help the government, receives orders to leave London on a secret mission to Berlin.
10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.
10.15 It'll Be Alright on the Night. TV bloopers. (R)
11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.
12.15 The Store. **2.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Freesports on 4. **7.30** Arenacross. **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.25** The Taste. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** How I Met Your Mother. **1.55** How I Met Your Mother. **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. **5.35 Film:** The Devil Wears Prada. (2006) Comedy drama, starring Meryl Streep.
7.40 Channel 4 News.
8.00 The Edwardian Grand Designer: A Time Team Special. Tony Robinson goes behind the scenes of the National Trust's £11million restoration of Castle Drogo in Devon and finds out about the life and work of its architect Edwin Lutyens.
9.00 Film: Bridesmaids. (2011) Premiere. A disorganised woman takes charge of her best friend's bridal party, but finds she has a rival in the wife of the groom's boss. Comedy, with Kristen Wiig and Rose Byrne.
11.25 Film: Sex and the City. (2008) Journalist Carrie prepares for her wedding, but fiance Big is starting to get cold feet. Comedy, starring Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon.
1.55 Boss. Kane takes a break from City Hall. **2.55** One Born Every Minute. A father-to-be cannot be contacted as his girlfriend's labour progresses. (R) **3.55** Location, Location, Location. Revisiting two couples who were expecting babies. (R) **4.50** Supernanny US. (R) **5.30** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.00** Access. (R) **11.10** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.45** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.45** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.45** Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild. (R) **2.45 Film:** The Kid. (2000) **4.45 Film:** Over Her Dead Body. (2008)
6.35 5 News.
6.40 Film: The Man in the Iron Mask. (1998) The Three Musketeers set out to depose the King of France and place his imprisoned twin brother on the throne. Swashbuckling adventure, with Leonardo DiCaprio and John Malkovich. Edited for violence and sexual content.
9.00 Film: Daybreakers. (2010) Thriller, starring Ethan Hawke.
10.55 Film: The Matrix Revolutions. (2003) Sci-fi sequel, starring Keanu Reeves.
1.15 SuperCasino. **3.05** Ultimate Emergency Bikers. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.25** The Voice UK **9.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents: Thailand **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Uncle **11.15** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 Francesco's Italy Top to Toe **8.00** The Review Show **9.00** Bunkers, Brutalism and Bloodymindedness: Concrete Poetry with Jonathan Meades **10.00 Film:** In a Better World (2010) **11.50** BB King – The Life of Riley
ITV2
3.50 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.15 Film:** Junior (1994) **7.30 Film:** Ocean's Thirteen (2007) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **11.00** Utterly Outrageous Reality TV Moments 2013
ITV3
2.55 Agatha Christie's Marple **4.55** Lewis **7.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Ronnie Corbett's Comedy Britain **10.00** Inspector Morse
ITV4
2.50 Film: Northwest Mounted Police (1940) **5.20 Film:** Nevada Smith (1966) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** The Keeper (2009) **11.00** Hell on Wheels **11.55** Nitro Circus
E4
3.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.00** The Tomorrow People **5.00** Troy **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.30** My Mad Fat Diary **11.30** Rules of Engagement
Film4
2.35 At the Earth's Core (1976) **4.20** Freaky Friday (1976) **6.15** Independence Day (1996) **9.00** Unknown (2011) **11.15** The Talented Mr Ripley (1999)

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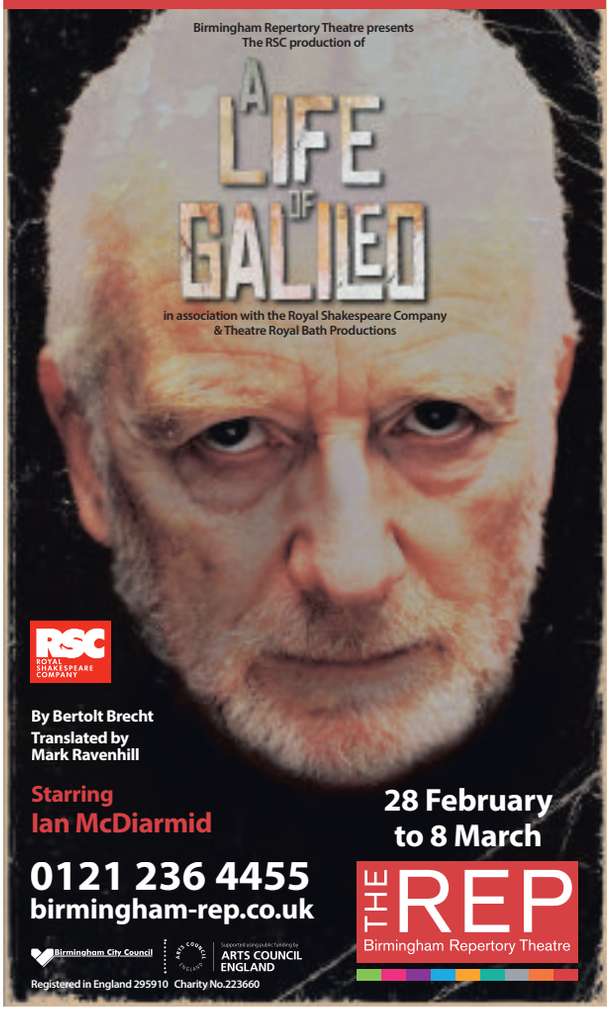

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What's On!

Film Choices

Monday
Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery, Channel 5, 11pm
A velvet-clad, sex-crazed secret agent from the 1960s agrees to be put into a state of suspended animation after his arch-enemy escapes justice. Thirty years later he is defrosted to do battle with the power-mad villain again,. Spoof spy adventure, with Mike Myers, Elizabeth Hurley, Mimi Rogers and Robert Wagner. (1997)

Wednesday
Beginners, Channel 4, 12.05am
A man starting a relationship looks back on the last years of his father's life, when he came out as gay at the age of 75. He recalls the old man's passionate new outlook on life, and ponders what the experience can teach him about his current romance. Comedy drama, starring Ewan McGregor and an Oscar-winning Christopher Plummer. (2010)

The Well, Channel 4, 1.50am
The son of a rich white man is suspected of being behind the disappearance of a five-year-old black girl, causing a near riot among the black community. When she is later found trapped in a well, the townspeople set aside their racial differences and unite to rescue her. Drama, starring Richard Rober, Henry Morgan, Barry Kelley and Christine Larson. (1951)

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

Thursday
Hunger Point, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two sisters struggle to come to terms with the legacy of their mother's obsession with dieting and physical perfection. As they try to beat the strict conditioning she instilled in them, they begin to rebuild their shattered family life. Drama, starring Barbara Hershey, Christina Hendricks, Susan May Pratt and John Getz. (2003)

Friday
Black Friday, Channel 5, 3.20pm
An expert in bank security systems is forced to commit a crime when her daughter is taken hostage. The girl's captors order her to break into a dead cop's safety-deposit box and retrieve a vital piece of incriminating evidence. Thriller, starring Amy Carlson, Judd Nelson, Thomas Ian Griffith and Darcy Rose Byrnes. (2007)

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, BBC2, 11.05pm
A rebellious convict gets himself sent to a psychiatric hospital, thinking it will be easier than prison. Finding himself surrounded by institutionalised patients, he encourages them to rebel against the tyrannical head nurse. Milos Forman's Oscar-winning drama based on Ken Kesey's novel, starring Jack Nicholson, Louise Fletcher, Brad Dourif, Christopher Lloyd, William Redfield, Will Sampson and Danny DeVito. (1975)

Pick of the Week

Courtroom drama is back on the defence

British TV viewers seem to love nothing more than a good crime drama. Programmes such as Broadchurch, Inspector George Gently and DCI Banks regularly do well in the ratings, but they tend to concentrate on what happens when the culprits are caught – we rarely see what happens to them after that.

Law & Order: UK manages to straddle both the investigation and the prosecution, but without the depth legal drama fans probably crave. Kavanagh QC did delve into that side of things, but few series since then have managed it – until **Silk, BBC1, 9pm** made its debut in 2011.

We're thrilled to see it back for a third series, and with its original stars, Maxine Peake and Rupert Penry-Jones, still on board. Both are in-demand (Peake has also turned to writing recently – her first play, Beryl: A Love Story on Two Wheels, will open at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds in June), so it wouldn't have been a major shock if they were too busy to participate in Peter Moffat's acclaimed drama.

Her character, Martha, is thrown into the thick of things as soon as the new series begins when she's asked to defend the son of the head of chambers who has been arrested for killing a police officer – and as the evidence stacks up against him, her job seems to get increasingly difficult.

Meanwhile, Billy struggles with a secret and a new practice manager sends ripples through the clerks' room.

Maxine has played both criminals and lawyers during her career, and is very clear about which is the more challenging role.

"It's much more interesting being in front of the court," she admits. "And I think performance-wise, it's harder pretending to defend someone than being the defendant."

Female QCs are few and far between – there have only ever been about 300, according to Bar Council statistics – but Maxine had help when it came to research from a formidable role model.

"I met with Helena Kennedy QC at a charity event at the Royal Courts of Justice, around the same time I knew I was going up for the part," reveals Maxine. "I remember thinking 'this woman is quite special and I'd like to find out more about this world'.

"It's scary and it's true that women don't get a fair crack at the whip, partly because as a women you have to make sacrifices, such as deciding whether to have a family, and being a QC takes over your life."

However, Martha is no dowdy, lifeless, career-driven soul.

"I wanted to make her a little bit glamorous, I feel she's got her own personality, she's a bit rock 'n' roll. She's definitely into her music. It's funny because my friends were like 'hang on, that's you,' because I love my music and red lipstick, which worked for the character too."

But has playing Martha given Maxine a taste for the legal profession?

"I find it fascinating but I don't think I'm quite cut out for it!" she laughs. "I think I'd get far too involved and that's what you see with Martha. I'd find it really difficult to switch off and I think you sort of have to, because people's lives are in your hands."

Neil Stuke, Miranda Raison and Frances Barber also star.

Rupert Penry-Jones and Maxine Peake star in Silk, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

Monday
The Gadget Show
Channel 5, 7pm
This year marks Jason Bradbury's 10th as host of The Gadget Show, a series that kicked off in June 2004 with Adrian Simpson, Jon Bentley, Bradbury and Suzi Perry examining camcorders, TVs, cars with heads-up displays and mobile phones. The first of the new run sees the return of Ortis Deley. He, Rachel Riley and Jason explain why the desktop PC has fallen out of favour. Ortis will also nip to Italy to test iCub, a robot that learns skills from social interaction. As instantly retro photos are still hugely popular, Jon and the Beatles' former photographer Paul Beriff will be following a Fab Four tribute band around Liverpool. Plus, online video stars Matt and Darren test portable gaming devices.

DCI Banks
ITV, 9pm
If Stephen Tompkinson played DCI Banks like his first major character, Drop the Dead Donkey's dodgy cameraman Damian Day, you could expect planted evidence and false testimonies left, right and centre. Fortunately, Banks is far more dedicated to the truth – and in the conclusion of this two-parter, he's having to go all-out to find it. He learns of a mysterious tape recording that appears to link Matt Barber's father Jack, who was the original investigating officer in the John Gaunt case, with the Crystal Kiss – and faces a race against time to retrieve it. Helen, meanwhile, thinks she has all she needs to push the former copper harder.

Tuesday
Death in Paradise
BBC1, 9pm
Tycoon Alexander Jackson, owner of Sebastien Island, has been shot dead at a family gathering. As there is only one property on the island, and access is limited to one jetty via boat, the suspects are Alexander's three kids, housekeeper Rosie, and PA Emily. They were all at the house at the time of the crime. However, with only one of the late man's sons able to provide an alibi, Humphrey Goodman (Kris Marshall) and his team hope they can crack the case before the killer strikes again. With a hurricane approaching, the crime-busters could be stranded until the storm passes.

Wednesday
Line of Duty
BBC2, 9pm
The art of any great drama in these days of multi-channel viewing is grabbing the audience by the scruff of the neck and not letting go until the closing titles. Which is one of the reasons this fast moving, hard-hitting cops-and-robbers saga has touched a chord with the masses. In the latest offering Lindsay is remanded in custody on a murder charge, and her first thought on hearing the verdict is wondering who will take care of Bella, her cat. When she becomes the victim of a violent attack, Lindsay confides in Kate that she had a previous relationship with an executive police officer – who may have wanted her framed.

Suspects
Channel 5, 10pm
A woman has been attacked by the West Willow canal by a man wearing gloves and a balaclava. There is no CCTV footage, which naturally makes life difficult for crime busters DS Jack Weston (Damien Molony) and Charlie Steele (Clare-Hope Ashitey). The fact there have been two other rapes within a mile-and-a-half radius makes them suspect recently released serial rapist George Callahan. When pulled in for questioning, he claims to have been watching football at home, and both his home CCTV (installed since his release) and his girlfriend Annette (Annabelle Apsion) corroborates his alibi. Jack smells a rat, while DC Steele is stunned that the latest rape victim is the station's chief superintendent's wife.

Suspects, Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm

Thursday
Inspector George Gently
BBC1, 8.30pm
As well as letting us admire the 1960s fashions, Inspector George Gently also examines the social issues of the time, and this episode, the last in the current series, turns its attention to the decline of the coal industry. The once-thriving colliery town of Burnsend is facing an uncertain future amid reports that the National Coal Board is planning to close the mine – and the atmosphere is about to get even more tense after the body of miner Arthur Hawkes is discovered in the pit. Gently and Bacchus are called in to investigate, and discover that union man Hawkes had been in conflict with his 'comrades', as well as the management.

Friday
Jonathan Creek
BBC1, 9pm
Alan Davies recently tried out an unlikely new job – winter-sports reporter. He's been bringing us his own unique take on the action from Sochi in BBC Two's Apres-Ski. But now he's getting back to a more familiar role, that of master illusionist Jonathan Creek. The first episode seems tailor-made for him, as it involves a West End leading lady Juno Pirelli (Ali Bastian) who is found stabbed in a locked dressing room. But now he's happily married and working alongside his wife Polly (Sally Alexander), can Jonathan be persuaded to return to sleuthing?

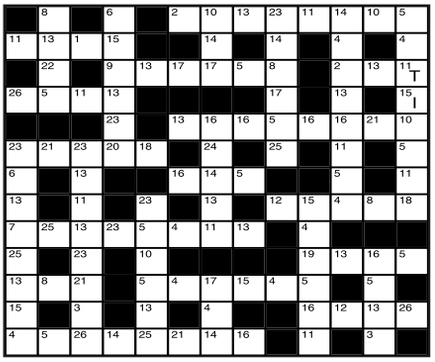
Edge of Heaven
ITV, 9pm
He may have a Wham!-obsessed mother and live in Margate's only 1980s-themed bed and breakfast, but it seems unlikely Alfie will be in the mood to jive around the kitchen to Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go. If you missed last week's opening instalment of this promising comedy drama, it saw him being ditched at the altar by his bride Carly, who then went off on their honeymoon on her own – which she clearly enjoyed because she's now back with a new boyfriend..

Brain Gym

No.261

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
F	P	W	X	V	H	I	K	U	C	S	Q	N
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	J	Y	A	L	B	Z	T	E	R	M	G	D

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

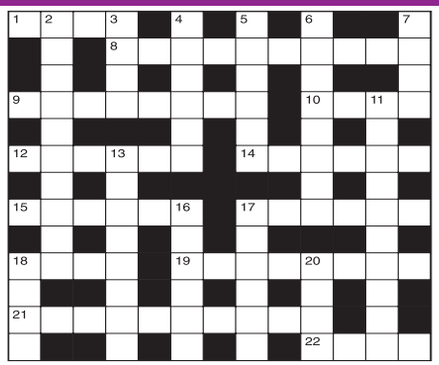
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Word associated with poker, but it's not flush! (4)
8. One is certain to be this (10)
9. Was present and listened (8)
10. Stops and objects (4)
12. It's not very often one gets a letter ahead of time! (6)
14. Picnic, perhaps (3,3)
15. His work's a grind (6)
17. Walk the street with a list (6)
18. Deserted port (4)
19. Give an undertaking to shrink? (8)
21. He's versatile, but liable to go to pieces (3,2,5)
22. Take the last drop (4)

Down

2. Order to the non-conformist on the track? (3,3,4)
3. Vague letter of little value (4)
4. Holiday when one is not at one's best (3,3)
5. Promise to put a shelf on quietly (6)
6. Film executive on board (8)
7. Service accommodation (4)
11. Unpopular second feature that's apt to grow on one (6,4)
13. One of the family may be oriental (8)
16. It has all the right ingredients (6)
17. Various indications it's not raining (6)
18. City where mail goes astray (4)
20. Charge for a plant (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Girl (4)
8. Victorious (10)
9. Finished (8)
10. Percolate (4)
12. Painter (6)
14. Show clearly (6)
15. Resting (6)
17. Threefold (6)
18. Wound-mark (4)
19. Cannibal (8)
21. Happy (10)
22. Above (4)

Down

2. Dictatorial (10)
3. Cease (4)
4. Strip (6)
5. Hinder (6)
6. Punish (8)
7. Pace (4)
11. Great merit (10)
13. Blend (8)
16. Perpetrate (6)
17. Ligament (6)
18. Sieve (4)
20. Too (4)

Sudoku

			5					7
	5	2		4		6	1	
1				9	3			5
2			3			8		
6	8			7			3	1
		1			8			6
3			1					9
	7	8		3		1		
5					6			8

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	7	1	4	2	5	9	8	3
5	8	2	3	1	9	6	7	4
4	9	3	6	8	7	2	5	1
2	3	7	5	4	1	8	6	9
9	1	6	8	7	3	5	4	2
8	4	5	2	9	6	3	1	7
7	5	8	1	3	2	4	9	6
1	2	4	9	6	8	7	3	5
3	6	9	7	5	4	1	2	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Altar; 8 Rioters; 9 Tickets; 10 Fault; 12 First of all; 15 Incapacity; 18 Deter; 19 Neutron; 21 Galleon; 22 Angel. Down: 1 Master-mind; 2 Stick; 3 Free; 4 Wrists; 5 Confront; 6 Refusal; 11 Tolerantly; 13 Importer; 14 Scuttle; 16 Canine; 17 Drags; 20 Utah. QUICK - Across: 7 Earth; 8 Subject; 9 Observe; 10 Taper; 12 Stentorian; 15 Incendiary; 18 Naive; 19 Strikes; 21 Reviles; 22 False. Down: 1 Decoration; 2 Erase; 3 Char; 4 Astern; 5 Abattoir; 6 Despoil; 11 Ring-master; 13 Tenderly; 14 Achieve; 16 Insist; 17 Skill; 20 Rife.

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Parkfield Road

An attractively presented, deceptively spacious, 3 bedroomed traditional style semi detached property occupying a pleasant position within this convenient neighbourhood, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, attractive lounge, (double doors to:-) dining room, extended kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, drive providing off road parking, and pleasant good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £149,950

OLDBURY

Bromford Road

Delightfully presented, spacious, modern 2 bedroomed second floor apartment most conveniently situated for all local shopping facilities available within Oldbury Town Centre, having gas radiator heating, double glazing, approached via a communal entrance and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall (with intercom receiver), delightful spacious lounge, super fitted kitchen (having oven/hob), 2 good sized bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite), attractive bathroom, and allocated parking space. MUST BE VIEWED TO BE APPRECIATED. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £119,950

SMETHWICK

Norman Road

A deceptively spacious, well proportioned 2 bedroomed first floor flat conveniently situated within this established neighbourhood, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, kitchen, spacious lounge, balcony, inner hall, 2 bedrooms, and bathroom. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £79,950

SMETHWICK

SUBSTANTIAL £20,000 REDUCTION

Edgbaston Road

A splendidly sized period home requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating and double glazing, with forecourt parking and own entrance to rear garden comprises :- Entrance vestibule, hall, cloakstore with access to cellar, front lounge, rear living room, good size breakfast room, fitted kitchen with five ring gas cooker, utility, three first floor bedrooms, large bathroom, further attic bedroom, good size garden, toilet and store off. EPC Rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

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VIEWING ESSENTIAL

Katherine Road

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NO UPWARD CHAIN

Marshall Road

A deceptively spacious, well proportioned 3 bedroomed semi detached property in popular location, requiring internal inspection and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, downstairs w.c, spacious lounge (double doors to:), dining area, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, shared drive at the side, garage and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

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SMETHWICK

WAS £109,950 NOW £107,500

St Albans Road

A deceptively spacious, well proportioned, 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated for local shopping facilities and amenities, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, spacious through lounge/dining area, inner hall, kitchen, rear vestibule area, downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms and rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers aaround £107,500

OLDBURY

VIEWING ESSENTIAL

George Road

A deceptively spacious, well proportioned, 2 bedroomed intermediate terraced property, conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having majority double glazing, gas radiator heating, briefly comprising :- Front reception room, rear reception room, attractive kitchen, 2 good sized bedrooms, bathroom and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £94,950

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Property

Extended family home set in a desired location

A four-bedroomed executive detached home that has been improved by the current owners in Wykeham Grove, Wolverhampton boasts generous accommodation.

In a sought after location on the outskirts of Perton, it is for sale through Your Move at £298,500 with no chain.

It has a through hallway, a cloakroom/WC, living room, dining room, conservatory, spacious modern breakfast kitchen, utility, double garage, four bedrooms (master en suite bathroom and bedrooms one and two having wardrobes), a further bathroom,

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REDNAL

Property comprises lounge, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 3 Beds, Garden, Off road parking. Close to local amenities.

Rise Avenue £525 p.c.m

WEST BROMICH

Self contained office building. Comprises kitchen, off road parking, spacious yard area to rear, 5 offices over 2 floors together with toilet facilities. Multiple vehicle parking.

WILLIAM STREET 500 PCM

TIPTON

Mid Terrace Family Home, Ent Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, 2 Double Beds, Bathroom, Garden, Off Road Parking. Must be viewed.

Rowland Hill Drive £115,000

BILSTON

End Terrace, Porch, , Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Beds, Bathroom and gardens to front and rear. Must be viewed.

Slim Avenue £395 PCM

Gas Safety Certificates Only £55.00 Please Call To Book.

GREAT BRIDGE

First floor apartment comprises entrance hall, fitted kitchen ,through lounge, bathroom and 2 double bedrooms. Communal gardens and parking.

FISHER STREET £52,950

OLDBURY

Three storey townhouse, close to local amenities, Fitted kitchen, Living room/diner, toilet, 3 Beds and family bathroom, Garden, Off Road Parking.

Merton Close £575.00 P.C.M

SUTTON COLDFIELD

Well presented 2/3 bed mid terrace, Seperate lounge and dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, Garden, Off Road Parking

Riland Avenue £625 P.C.M

TIPTON

Beautifully presented top floor flat comprising of: Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge with Feature Fire & Balcony, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom & Separate WC, Off Road Parking.

CHURCHFIELD AVE £52,950

www.timothydaniels.co.uk info@timothydaniels.co.uk

A secluded location for large Edwardian home

A SUBSTANTIAL five-bedroom Edwardian detached home which has been recently refurbished is on the market for offers of £385,000 with the agent Paul Dubberley.

Retaining many original features, such as large open fireplaces, coved ceilings and large windows with excellent views, the house at Squires Walk, Wednesbury is a very secluded property, approached via a large lawn area with paved patio to the front and parking to the rear.

The accommodation comprises a reception hall with parquet flooring, dining room, drawing room, lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, five bedrooms, master with en suite and fitted bathroom suite.

To arrange a viewing call the agent on 0121 505 3533 or visit the website at www.pauldubberley.co.uk where further images are available.

Stylish semi with a bespoke kitchen

THIS property in Finchfield Lane, Finchfield, Wolverhampton is an immaculate and stylish four-bedroomed traditional semi-detached home.

It is for sale through Peter James Property at £299,950. The accommodation includes a large porch, through lounge, sitting/dining room, bespoke kitchen, utility, cloakroom, master bedroom en-suite, large family bathroom/shower room with spa-style bath and underfloor heating, three further bedrooms, potential for a loft conversion, upstairs WC, lovely landscaped gardens, double-glazed leaded windows, gas central heating, a garage and off-road parking for three cars. Call Peter James Property on 01902 754777 or visit the website at www.peterjamesproperty.com

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OLDBURY

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Plot 3 Site of 46 George Road
*Link detached bungalow *Two bedrooms *L Shaped lounge/dining area
*Quality fitted kitchen with appliances *Luxury bathroom with shower cubicle
*Gas boiler heating radiators *Two parking spaces *EPC = C
£185,000

Halesowen

Alma Street
* Spacious detached house
* Kitchen/breakfast room
* Through living room
* Three bedrooms
EPC = D
Offers in the region of £159,950

Cradley Heath

Bramble Close
* End Terraced House
* Living Room
* Conservatory
* Two Bedrooms
* Bathroom
* Situated on good sized plo
* Lovely rear garden
EPC = D
Offers in the region of £129,950

Rowley Regis

143 High Street
* Blackheth Town Centre
* Professional offices
* Potential retail shop with first floor storage
* Prominent position adjacent to new library
* To let on 5yr lease - rent £11,000 pa
* Might sell
* Viewing by appointment
EPC = G
Annual rent of £11,000

Cradley Heath

Unit 6 Corngreaves
76 Graingers Lane
* EPC = G
* Industrial unit having gross internal floor area of 82.32 sq.m. (885 sq.ft.)
* Kitchen, toilet and mezzanine office.
* Ideal for food preparation.
* Off-road parking.
* Vacant possession available.
Annual rent of £4,500

Oldbury

684 Wolverhampton Road
EPC = C
* Lock-up shop and premises.
* Extensive retail area 4.47m wide x 9.28m deep
* Store/kitchen 4.31m x 3.85m
* Forecourt parking
* New lease for 5 years
* Rent £8,500 per annum plus rates
Annual rent of £8,500

Oldbury

Broadway Croft
* Extended Semi Detached
* Through Lounge & Dining Room
* Conservatory
* Kitchen, Utility and WC
* Well appointed bathroom & En-suite
* Side Garage
EPC=D
£199,950

Rowley Regis

Dovey Grove
* Three storey town house
* Three bedrooms (two with en-suites)
* Flexible accommodation
* Kitchen/dining room with balcony
* Integral garage
* EPC = C
Offers in the region of £177,250

Rowley Regis

Duke Street
* Semi detached house
* Two living rooms
* Two good sized bedrooms
* Breakfast kitchen
* Bathroom
* Rear garden
EPC = E
Offers in the region of £124,950

Halesowen

Whitefriars Drive
* Terraced House
* Re-Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room
* Living Room* Two Bedrooms
* Re-Fitted Bathroom
* Rear Garden
EPC =tbc
Offers in the region of £129,950

Halesowen

1A Alexandra Road
* gas boiler/radiator heating
* double glazing * unusual layout of accommodation on three floors * parking for 2 cars * fitted kitchen with host of appliances * conveniently situated close to Birmingham to Stourbridge bus route * EPC=C
Monthly rent of £595+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Halesowen

112 Apperley Way
* First floor flat having double bedroom
* Fitted kitchen with some appliances
* Bathroom with shower over bath
* GCH & DG windows
* Great location on popular estate
* FANTASTIC VALUE FOR MONEY
* Available from 18th February * EPC=D
Monthly rent of £395+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Cradley Heath

Flat 4
6 Cox's Lane
* **AFFORDABLE** Refurbished flat
* Modern neutral finish
* New carpets, floor coverings and fittings * D/G windows & night storage heating * Car-park to rear * Great location for public transport * EPC=D
Monthly rent of £350+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Stourbridge Wollescote

Longmoor
Springfield Avenue
* Modern semi-detached house
* 2 bedrooms (1 with fitted wardrobes)
* Fitted kitchen with oven, hob, hood & fridge * Modern bathroom suite with shower * Garden with shed * Available from March* MUST VIEW!!! * EPC=D
Monthly rent of £535+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Harborne

70 Tennal Road
* 3 bedroom semi-detached house
* Popular location in Harborne
* modern fitted kitchen with oven & hob
* Stylish bathroom with separate shower cubicle * UPVC DGW & Gas CH * Off road car-parking & garden * Available NOW! * MUST VIEW! * EPC=D
Monthly rent of £775+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Smethwick

53 Wattis Road
* Lovely 2 bedroom terraced house
* Both bedrooms are double
* Great location for commuting into City
* Two reception rooms
* Kitchen with new cooker
* Bathroom with shower
* GCH & DGW * Garden * EPC=D
Monthly rent of £550+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Rowley Regis

4 Yates Lane
* Modern 2 bedroom house
* Stylish neutral decoration/fittings
* Fitted kitchen with appliances
* En-suite bathroom or shower room to each bedroom * Intruder alarm * Gated car-park * GCH & DGW
* MUST VIEW! * EPC=C
Monthly rent of £565+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

wortonkelly
Residential Sales & Lettings

Oldbury, Barnford Crescent £225,000

WortonKelly are delighted to offer for sale this well presented, five bedroomed semi-detached house. This property offers to you; an entrance hall leading to two reception rooms, a cloakroom and a fitted kitchen to the ground floor along with five bedrooms and a family bathroom to the first floor. Also accommodating a garage and off road parking to the front and a garden to the rear of the vicinity. Also benefiting from double glazing and central heating where specified. EPC-TBC.

WEST BROMWICH, Charlemont Crescent £220,000

WortonKelly are pleased to offer for sale this spacious, well presented detached bungalow on a sizable plot located in Charlemont Crescent, West Bromwich. This property briefly offers; 2 bedrooms, a lounge, a kitchen/diner and a bathroom. This property also benefits from double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is highly recommended. Energy Rating 40 (E).

WEDNESBURY, Pritchard Street £215,000

WortonKelly are delighted to offer for sale this very spacious, 3 floor, four bedroomed period style property with separate annex/living accommodation to the rear. Located on Prichard Street, Wednesbury, this substantial property offers to you; four bedrooms, two reception rooms, two family bathrooms, a fitted kitchen, front and rear gardens with annex situated to the rear of the vicinity. This property also benefits from gas central heating where specified. Energy Rating 35(F).

WEST BROMWICH, Wood Lane £150,000

WortonKelly are delighted to offer for sale this self built, detached family home located on Wood Lane, West Bromwich. This property comprises of; three bedrooms, one reception room, fitted kitchen, upstairs family bathroom, ground floor W/C, double length garage, rear garden and a driveway offering off road parking. This property also benefits from having double glazing and central heating where specified. Energy Rating 69 (C)

West Bromwich, 30 Marsh Lane £400 PCM + Fees

●●Half Price Application Fees For A February Move In!!●● WortonKelly are pleased to offer to let this 1st floor 2 bedroom flat. Being located above commercial property, this apartment is conveniently close to local shops and amenities. Comprising of; two bedrooms, lounge, family bathroom and kitchen. This property benefits from double glazing and central heating where specified. EPC - TBC.

Wednesbury, Wolverhampton Street £525 PCM + Fees

●●Half Price Application Fees For A February Move In!!●● Wortonkelly are pleased to offer To Let this semi-detached property briefly comprising of one reception room, kitchen and shower room to the ground floor, three bedrooms and a bathroom to the first floor, also benefiting from double glazing, central heating, front and rear gardens. Energy Rating 69 (C)

West Bromwich, Navigation Lane £550 PCM + Fees

●●Half Price Application Fees For A February Move In!!●● Wortonkelly are pleased to offer to let this end of terrace house located on Navigation Lane, West Bromwich. This property comprises of; an entrance porch, lounge, kitchen and conservatory to the ground floor as well as having two bedrooms and a family bathroom to the first floor. This property accommodates a garden to both the front and rear of the vicinity and benefits from double glazing and central heating where specified. Energy Rating 69 (C).

West Bromwich, Beverley Road £550 PCM + Fees

●●Half Price Application Fees For A February Move In!!●● WortonKelly are delighted to offer to let this semi-detached house located on Beverley Road, West Bromwich. This property offers to you; a cloakroom, lounge and kitchen to the ground floor, also having three bedrooms and a family bathroom to the first floor. This property also accommodates a garden to the front and rear of the vicinity and benefits from double glazing and central heating where specified. Energy Rating 53 (E).

West Bromwich, Holly Road £125,000

An end of terrace family home located on Holly Road, West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen Diner, Three Bedrooms, Down Stairs Bathroom, Front Garden and Rear Garden With Jacuzzi Hot Tub, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Viewing Highly Recommended. Energy Rating 52 (E).

●No Upwards Chain●

West Bromwich, Thursfield Road £600 PCM + Fees

●●Half Price Application Fees For A February Move In!!●● WortonKelly are pleased to offer to let this well presented semi-detached property located on Thursfield Road, West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Single Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Viewing essential to appreciate this property. Energy Rating 45 (E)

West Bromwich, Navigation Lane £110,000

We are pleased to market this immaculate mid terraced property. The property Briefly comprising of Two Bedrooms, Through Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Family Bathroom, Rear Garden, Two Allocated Parking Spaces, Intruder Alarm, Central Heating and Double Glazing Where Specified. Energy Rating 71 (C).

West Bromwich, Coles Lane £108,000

A well presented traditional extended semi detached family home. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Down Stairs WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Rear Garden, Central Heating and Double Glazing Where Specified. Viewing Essential. Energy Rating 50 (E).

West Bromwich, Westmorland Court £120,000

REDUCED BY 7,500

This Four Bedroom Mid Terrace Property. Briefly comprising of Four Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Upstairs Bathroom, Front and Rear Garden, Central Heating and Double Glazing where specified and Garage at rear. Energy Rating 75 (C)

West Bromwich, Campville Crescent £120,000

Pleased to offer for sale this semi-detached property located in Campville Crescent, West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, One Reception Room, Utility Room, Family Bathroom Front and Rear Gardens, Central Heating and parking to the rear. Energy Rating 65 (D)

●No Upwards Chain!●

WEST BROMWICH, Boulton Road £98,500

WortonKelly are pleased to offer for sale this well presented mid terraced property located on Boulton Road, West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of a lounge, a fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and a family bathroom. This property also offers rear gardens and double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing essential to appreciate this property. Energy Rating 67 (D)

WEST BROMWICH, John Street £90,000

WortonKelly are pleased to offer for sale this well-presented semi-detached property located on John Street, West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, One Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Garden, Central Heating and Double Glazing where specified. No Upwards Chain! Energy Rating 72 (C)

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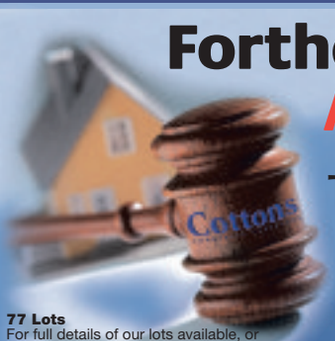

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- Refurbished End Town House
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- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Two double Bedrooms
- Front Driveway

Offers Around £99,950

Brook Way, EDGBASTON,

- Superb Detached Property
- Through Lounge ● Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory ● Cloakroom
- Five Bedrooms ● Two En-suites
- Garage

Offers Around £265,000

Elm Croft, OLDBURY,

- Extended Semi Detached
- Through Lounge
- Extended Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Driveway ● No Upward Chain

Offers Around £159,995

Raglan Road, SMETHWICK,

- Well Maintained Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen ● Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain

Offers Around £99,950

Loxley Road, BEARWOOD,

- Extended Refurbished Terrace
- Three Reception Rooms
- Re-Fitted Extended Kitchen ● Two Double Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Family Bathroom

Offers Around £174,950

Broadmoor Avenue, SMETHWICK,

- Spacious Semi Detached
- Through Lounge ● Extended Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Family Bathroom
- Ideal First Time Purchase

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City Road, EDGBASTON,

- Modern Semi Detached
- Four Bedrooms ● Master En-suite
- Two Reception Rooms
- Spacious Kitchen/Diner
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- Family Bathroom & En-suite Shower
- Garage, Drive & Gardens

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WODEN ROAD SOUTH
SOLD STC IN WEDNESBURY

- Extended Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge/ Diner
- Extended Kitchen
- Conservatory

SOLD STC

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Three Bedroom Detached House Stunningly Well Presented Newly Fitted Breakfast Kitchen Conservatory Drive And Detached Garage

£165,000

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- NEW PRICE
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- DRIVE
- Double Glazing & Central Heating

REDUCED to £125,000

REDUCED

SYCAMORE ROAD
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- Mid Terraced House
- FOUR Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- In Need of Modernisation
- GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Offers invited

NEW

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WEST BROMWICH

EXTENDED Three Bedroom Semi Detached Ensuite Shower Room Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing Garage Priced To Sell And Must Be Viewed

£125,000

NEW

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three bedroom semi detached house two reception rooms front and rear gardens parking & detached garage Viewings essential

£125,000

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- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom & Wetroom
- Large Drive

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REDUCED

ST. HELENS AVENUE
TIPTON
- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Garage & Drive

£119,000

TAME STREET
WEST BROMWICH
- 2 Bed Modern Town House
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Private Parking
- Rear Garden
- Family Bathroom

£120,000

UPPER CHURCH LANE
TIPTON
- 3 Bed Semi Detached House
- EXTENSIVE Drive & Garden
- Lounge/Diner
- Garage
- Downstairs WC

£119,950

REDUCED

HIGHFIELD ROAD
DUDLEY
- Semi Detached House
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating

Offers Invited

JOHNSON CLOSE
WEDNESBURY
- End Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- DRIVE
- NO CHAIN

£110,000

ROWLAND HILL DRIVE
TIPTON
- Two Bedroom Town House
- Ideal For First Time Buyers and Investors
- Off Road Parking
- ●●NO CHAIN●●
- Call GOODCHILDS to VIEW

£110,000

VICARAGE ROAD
WEST BROMWICH
- 2 Good Bedrooms
- Modern Town House
- Private Rear Garden
- Secure Off Road Parking
- Conservatory

£95,000

NEW

HOLYHEAD ROAD
WEDNESBURY

Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment Very Well Presented Fully Fitted Kitchen Central Heating & Double Glazing Viewing Essential

£88,500

WHITEHALL ROAD
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Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat Very Well Presented Fully Fitted Kitchen
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- Extensive Kitchen
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- SORRY NO DHSS

£575 pcm

Tipton SOLLY GROVE

- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Double Glazing
- Large Rear garden
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£550 pcm

Great Barr CURBAR ROAD

- Three Bedrooms
- Semi-Detached
- Excellent Condition
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£530 pcm

Great Barr HARLESTON ROAD

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- SORRY NO DHSS

£500 pcm

Wednesbury KIND STREET

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Private Garden
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 pcm

Wednesbury JOHNSON CLOSE

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Large Garden
- Down Stairs Bathroom
- Recently Decorated
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 pcm

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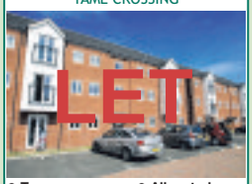
Wednesbury TAME CROSSING



- Two Bedrooms
- Entrance Hallway
- Canal Views
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury WEDGBURY CLOSE

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Allocated Parking
- Secured Entrance
- First Floor
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury THE AVENUE

- Second Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury MYVOD ROAD

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Fitted KItchen
- Electric Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 PCM

Darlaston CASTLE STREET

- Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Utility Room
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£450 pcm

Wednesbury MYVOD ROAD

- One Bedrooms Ground Floor Apartment
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Newly Refurbished
- SORRY NO DHSS

£450 PCM

Willenhall THE JUNCTION

- OPEN VIEWING
- SATURDAY 22ND
- FEBRUARY 11am-12pm
- Two Bedrooms
- Underground Parking
- Ideal Transport Links
- SORRY NO DHSS

£450 PCM

Wednesbury ADDISON TERRACE

- Ground Floor Apartment
- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- SORRY NO DHSS

£ 425 pcm

Tipton DUDLEY PORT

- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor Flat
- Seperate Kitchen
- Lounge
- SORRY NO DHSS

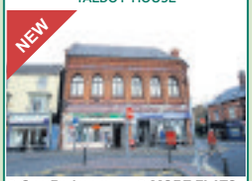
£375 pcm

TIPTON DUDLEY PORT

- One Bedroom Flat
- Central Location
- Gas central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£375 pcm

Wednesbury TALBOT HOUSE



- One Bedroom Flat
- First Floor
- Wednesbury Town Centre
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- DHSS ACCEPTED

£330 PCM

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WEST BROMWICH
RUTLAND ROAD
APPLICATION IN
A good size 3 bedroom semi-detached property, spacious lounge, kitchen with white goods, downstairs w.c, first floor bathroom. central heated and double glazed. Private drive for numerous cars.
£620 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
MEYRICK ROAD
Modern 3 bedroom semi-detached property, spacious lounge, central heated and double glazing, off road parking. Available unfurnished. must be viewed to be appreciated.
£695 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
JAMES EATON CLOSE
A spacious 2 bedroom bunglow near the Sandwell hospital, good size reception room. Kitchen with white goods, Off road parking. Can be furnished.
£625 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
GORDON AVENUE
APPLICATION IN
Spacious 3 bdroom property, kitchen with dining area, central heated and double glazed. First floor bathroom. Must be viewed to be appreciated. Near the Menzies school and college.
£550 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
KINITHS CRESCENT
LET
3 bedroom semi-detached property in a prime location, spacious through lounge, first floor bathroom, central heated and double glazed, off road parking. High spec finished. must be viewed.
£600 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
IRELAND GREEN ROAD
3 bedroom link detached property, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen and shower room. 3 good size bedrooms. Private drive and garage. Available unfurnished
£650 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
WOOD LANE
LET
3 bedroom end of terrace property, 2 reception rooms, ch and dg. ground floor bathroom with overhead shower. available unfurnished.
£499 pcm

DUDLEY
SOUTHGATE WAY
Modern 2 bedroom aprtment, open plan kitchen. fitted bathroom. economy heating and double glazed through out. designated parking. Available unfurnished. Must be viewed
£495 pcm

WEST BROWICH
EUROPA AVENUE
Spacious 4 bedroom property in the sandwell valley area, Reception room, dining area, spacious kitchen, first floor bathroom. Off road parking. Unfurnished
£750 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
JEFFERSON PLACE
Modern ground floor apartment situated near sandwell hospital off Grafton road, spacious open plan kitchen and lounge, 1 bedroom, fitted bathroom. secure allocated parking.
£430 pcm

WEDNESBURY
ELWELL STREET
LET
First floor one bedroom flat, spacious lounge, ch and Dg, Must be viewed. Modernised.
£400 pcm

OLDBURY
KNOTTSALL LANE
NEW
Beautiful 1 bedroom first floor flat, central heated and double glazed, spacious lounge and bedroom, communal car park.
£495 pcm

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18-19 Mount Pleasant, West Bromwich
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Guide: £120,000- £130,000

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IVY House, Bursnips Road, Essington, near Willenhall, is a stunning house with indoor pool complex, extensive range of outbuildings and one-and-a-half acre of gardens and grounds. It is for sale through Berriman Eaton at £639,950.

The property comprises a substantial detached family houses. The leisure complex includes a gym and there is a substantial range of outbuildings providing stabling, storage and potential livestock areas. For details call Berriman Eaton on 01902 747744 or visit www.berrimaneaton.co.uk

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CREED WAY, B70 9JW

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms, En Suite
- Central Heating and Double Glazed
- Freehold
- Built In Kitchen Appliances
- Downstairs W.C

£154,950

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Freehold

£99,950

STANWAY GARDENS, B71 1RJ

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Freehold No Upward Chain

£99,950

VICARAGE ROAD, B71 1AE

- An Extended End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Separate Garage to Rear
- Majority Double Glazed, Central Heating.

£114,950

HEATH LANE, B71 2BN

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- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Freehold

£144,950

PENNYHILL LANE, B71 3RW

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms, Freehold
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating & Majority Double Glazing

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HOLLYHEDGE ROAD, B71 3AA

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- Large Driveway and Garage
- Rear Garden, No Upward Chain

£205,000

HOLLYHEDGE ROAD, B71 3AA

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- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating

£179,950

BASSETT ROAD, WS10 0HH

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Freehold & Driveway

£94,950

HAYWOODS FARM, B71 3QT

- A Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Central Heating

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- Conservatory
- Central Heating

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- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Front & Rear Garden

£123,950

CROOKHAY LANE, B71 2NE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Large Driveway
- Freehold

£127,950

ALL SAINTS WAY, B71 1RH

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms, Freehold
- Paved Driveway, Rear Garden
- Central Heating and Double Glazed.

£114,950

LAKESIDE ROAD, B70 0PN

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms, Freehold
- Majority Double Glazed, Central Heating
- Off Road Parking, Rear Garden

£110,000

CARISBROOKE ROAD, WS10 0JB

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold, Rear Garden

£99,950

MARSH LANE, B71 2DP

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing
- Conservatory

£99.950

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ON
MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2014
AT 6.30PM

Lot 1:
48 MERRIVALE ROAD,
BEARWOOD B66 3EJ
Freehold 2 bedroomed centrally heated terraced in need of improvement
£ 80 - 85,000

Lot 2:
112 CHESHIRE ROAD,
SMETHWICK B67 6DW
Freehold 3 bedroomed c/heated & double glazed terraced needing improvement
£ circa 75,000

Lot 3:
18 WILLIAM ROAD,
SMETHWICK B67 6LW
Freehold 3 bed semi in need of modernisation
£ 95 - 100,000

Lot 4:
23 SOUTHWICK ROAD,
HALESOWEN B62 9ET
Freehold centrally semi needing further improvement
£ 90 - 95,000

Lot 5:
123 BOROUGH CRESCENT,
OLDBURY B69 1BB
Freehold modern 7 bed c/heated & dble glzd detached
£ 155-160,000

Lot 6:
22 HARVEST ROAD,
SMETHWICK B67 6NQ
Freehold 2 bed centrally heated mid town house needing further improvement
£ circa 75,000

Lot 7:
8 PORTLAND PLACE,
134/136 PORTLAND ROAD B16 9SS
Individual 2 bed c/heated & dble glazed duplex garden apartment
£ circa 85,000

Lot 8:
136 CHESHIRE ROAD,
SMETHWICK B67 6DN
Freehold 3 bed c/heated &dble glazed villa needing modernisation
£ circa 85,000

Lot 9:
19 CHERRY TREE LANE, HALESOWEN B63 1DU
Freehold individual c/heated 3 bed detached
£ 170-180,000

Lot 10:
9 CLAREMONT ROAD,
SMETHWICK. B66 4JZ
Freehold 3 bedroomed c/heated & double glazed villa
£ 100-110,000

Lot 11:
379 CITY ROAD, EDGBASTON B17 8LD
Freehold investment comprising 4 self-contained c/heated flats
£ 175-180,000

Lot 12:
9 GAMESFIELD GREEN, WOLVERHAMPTON WV3 9RA
Freehold 3 bed c/heated detached needing renovation
£ 110-120,000

Lot 13:
383 CITY ROAD,
EDGBASTON B17 8LD
Freehold 4 bedroomed semi requiring total improvement
£ 75 - 80,000

108 WILLOW AVENUE, EDGBASTON

- Most carefully maintained spacious family accommodation
- Four bedrooms and bathroom to first floor
- Through hall, dining room, attractive lounge, fitted kitchen, cloakroom/WC & laundry/utility room
- Established good size garden with separate garage
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Easy reach Birmingham city centre
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £195,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

REDUCED

ASHWOOD CLOSE, OLDBURY

- Second floor flat
- PVC double glazed
- Electric storage heating
- Double bedroom
- Spacious lounge
- Allocated parking
- Ideal for first time buyers

Offers based on £65 000

Viewing Bearwood Office

230 NORMAN ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Freehold semi-detached corner property
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Three bedrooms and fully tiled bathroom
- Spacious lounge and kitchen/breakfast room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Off-street parking for two cars
- Ideal FTBs or as a family home

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

7 WARLEY HALL ROAD : OLDBURY

- Extended semi-detached
- 3 bedrooms
- Good size conservatory
- INTERNAL INSPECTION
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £197,950

Viewing : Bearwood Office

31 TRINDER ROAD, SMETHWICK

Semi-detached close to Warley Woods
- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Three bedrooms and fully tiled shower room
- Extended through lounge & kitchen/dining room
- Additional downstairs shower room
- Garden with SUBSTANTIAL SUMMERHOUSE
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

138 NORMAN ROAD, SMETHWICK

- PVC double glazed
- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Well proportioned lounge
- Open plan dining/family room
- Fully tiled downstairs shower/ washroom
- Off-street parking
- EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £149,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

72 GRAFTON ROAD, OLDBURY

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and refitted bathroom
- Two reception rooms and refitted kitchen
- Off-street parking
- Ideal family accommodation
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £149,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

32 BRANDHALL COURT, OLDBURY

- Well presented ground floor flat
- PVC double glazed and well heated
- Gated development
- Superb through lounge/dining room
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen and bathroom
- Garage and communal gardens
- FULL INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £94,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

15 PERRY COURT, OLDBURY

- Ground floor warden controlled flat
- Electric storage heating
- Double glazing
- Spacious lounge and kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Allocated parking and communal gardens
- Designated for over 60s (55+ with a disability)
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £67,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

250 QUEENS ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Freehold modern detached residence
- Excellent well appointed and spaciously planned family accommodation
- Four double bedrooms, one with en-suite shower room, plus house bathroom to first floor
- Inter-communicating lounge & separate dining room, fully fitted dining kitchen and
- Fitted cloakroom/WC downstairs
- Integral garage and good off-street parking
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £299,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

70 CHESTNUT ROAD, OLDBURY

Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
Three bedrooms
Bathroom with Mira shower & Separate W.C.
Through lounge/dining room
Refitted kitchen
Nicely presented garden to the rear
Off-street parking for three/four cars
INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £169,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

322 MOAT ROAD, OLDBURY

Substantial freehold semi-detached residence
- Excellent family accommodation
- Central heating and double glazing
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- Well fitted fully tiled bathroom
- Lounge and separate dining room
- Good size kitchen and laundry/utility room
- Downstairs W.C.
- Side garage & off-street parking for two cars
- Delightful mature gardens
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £209,750

Viewing Bearwood Office

180 LIGHTWOODS ROAD, BEARWOOD

An immaculate, much improved and most pleasantly situated traditional style freehold end terraced villa offering ideal starter accommodation which is gas centrally heated and double glazed to include two double bedrooms, refitted half tiled shower room, lounge, separate sitting room, refitted kitchen and gardens, located in a popular and established thoroughfare within easy reach of the main High Street shopping area and enjoying easy access to Birmingham city centre.

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

3 REAR OF 31 EVA ROAD, WINSON

- Pedestrian walkway off Eva Road
- Easy access Birmingham city centre
- Centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms & fully tiled bathroom
- Lounge and kitchen/ breakfast room
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £74,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

8 RATCLIFF WALK, OLDBURY

- Modern freehold town house
- PVC double glazed
- Duct-air central heating
- Two bedrooms (readily re-convertible to 3)
- Shower room
- Spacious lounge and conservatory
- Open plan kitchen/dining room
- Neatly laid out garden
- Allocated off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING ; D

OFFERS BASED ON £89,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

8 SILVERTON ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Centrally heated and double glazed
- Two bedrooms and bathroom
- Two reception rooms and kitchen
- Close Smethwick High Street
- EPC : E

OFFERS BASED ON £89,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

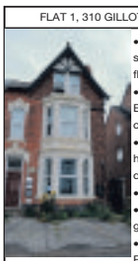
40 BISHOPTON ROAD, BEARWOOD

Superbly presented mid-terraced property
Gas centrally heated
Mostly double glazed
Two double bedrooms, store room and bathroom
Vestibule & Hall with original minton tiled floor
Through lounge/ dining room
Neatly laid out garden
INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £159,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

FLAT 1, 310 GILLOTT ROAD,



- Ground floor self-contained flat
- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms
- Communal gardens
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £69950

Viewing Bearwood Office

18 TOWER ROAD, TIVIDALE

- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Lounge, spacious kitchen & conservatory
- Gardens with off-street parking
- Some general cosmetic improvement required
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £110,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

40 RICHMOND ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Two bedrooms and box room
- First floor bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- In need of cosmetic improvement
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £99950

Viewings Bearwood Office

www.derekspiresandco.com

Drivetime

Your guide to the latest motoring news and views

Would you Adam and Eve this?

The ADAM is Vauxhall's refreshingly different take on the small car sector.

The model title's is a nod to Adam Opel, the founder of Vauxhall's European sister company, but is unlikely to start a trend for Biblical car names. It may though, start a trend for buyer personalisation, the like of which the market has never before seen. With over a million possible specification and trim combinations, the chances of two identical Vauxhall ADAMs ever being produced are statistically quite slim. Ground-breaking where it matters then - in the showroom. To disguise perhaps the fact that this car is actually quite conventional in arguably less important areas, running on the underpinnings of Vauxhall's old third generation Corsa.

The dealer network won't mind. It's the stylish look and feel that will sell this model. True enough, the Griffin brand has brought us some stylish designs in the past, but they've only appealed to a small percentage of the car buying population. Now at last, we've a Vauxhall with widespread chic appeal - a pretty new concept for British customers to grasp. Let's try it.

So what's it like behind the wheel? Slide into the seat and there's a very different feel from that provided by a Corsa.

As with all the powerplants launched with this car, it's a petrol unit, sixty two mph from rest occupying nearly 15s on the way to a top speed only just over 100mph. Better by far to find only a little more for one of the 1.4s, an 87PS unit that manages 62mph in a far more acceptable 12.5s on the way to 109mph. And a 100PS engine that improves things further to 11.5s and 115mph. Ask for something a little more hi-tech and the designers will point to the three cylinder 1.0-litre petrol unit also developed for this car.

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OTR £16,995

CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S
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OTR £22,495

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Fuel consumption figures for CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 31.7 (8.9), Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2), Combined 39.2 (7.2). CO_2 emissions: 168g/km; for Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO_2 emissions: 129g/km; for Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6), Combined 53.3 (5.3). CO_2 emissions: 123g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Models Shown: CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,495 On The Road; Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £16,995 On The Road; Jazz 1.2 S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,495 On The Road (OTR). **Terms and Conditions:** New retail CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** *£269 per month example shown based on CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,995 total cash price including 5 year care package at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £4,456.64 (19%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £8,854.53, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 6p per mile; New retail Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** *£209 per month example shown based on Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £17,495 total cash price including 5 Year Care Plan at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £3,812.69 (22%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £6,158.38, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 5p per mile; New retail Jazz 1.2 S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. The advertised saving of £1,200 (including VAT) discount to the OTR price for the Jazz 1.2 S applied to the retail invoice. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** *£140 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.2 S in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,995. Total cash price including 5 Year Care Package (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £1,795.20 (16%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £4,159.72 annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. The 5 Year Care Package includes: **Servicing:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary Hondacare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is being offered for £500 including VAT (usual value £1,545 including VAT) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

Drivetime

Vauxhall's Astra GTC is now a bigger performer

A new Astra GTC is now available with a powerful new 1.6-litre direct injection petrol engine, priced from just £20,995 on-the-road.

First seen in the Cascada convertible, and packing 200PS and 300Nm of torque, the all-new, four cylinder unit allows the GTC to achieve a top speed of 143mph and 0-60mph time in 7.3 seconds, making it the fastest non-VXR model in the Astra range.

Peak power and torque are increased by up to 30 per cent over the previous 1.6-litre turbo model, yet fuel consumption of 51mpg combined and emissions of 154g/km have meant a 13 per cent improvement in efficiency.

The new engine brings sector-leading refinement to the Astra GTC range. It is the only unit in its class to feature twin balancer shafts for smooth running, while a host of sound engineering measures have been made for low noise, vibration and harshness (NVH).

Priced from £855, Vauxhall has also introduced the innovative Intellilink infotainment system to the Astra GTC range.

Intuitive and user-friendly, the system features satellite navigation, voice control, Bluetooth phone and audio connectivity, picture viewer and Gracenote album art, all via its high-resolution 7in touch-screen display.

In addition, the top-of-the-range Navi 950 IntelliLink contains Europe-wide street level mapping with updates easily downloadable via USB. Drivers can also have incoming text messages read out to them, as well as integrating their smartphones' own voice recognition functions.

"We've strengthened our Astra GTC offering with a strong and powerful 1.6-litre petrol engine and the cutting-edge Intellilink infotainment system," said Stuart Harris, Vauxhall's head of carline brand.

"Vauxhall is really throwing down the gauntlet to UK coupe sector rivals with these enhancements to our Astra GTC range."

Astra GTCs with the new engine and Intellilink are available to order now with first deliveries expected in the spring.

Lifetime

With the Astra GTC and all models in its passenger car range, Vauxhall gives peace of mind for the life of the vehicle via its industry-leading Lifetime Warranty. Available to the first owner, the warranty is valid for the lifetime of the vehicle up to a maximum of 100,000 miles.

Vauxhall is also making the top-selling Astra available with a super-smooth new generation 1.6 CDTi engine, Vauxhall's cleanest-ever mid-size diesel.

Previously only available on the Zafira Tourer and the Meriva, the new 1.6 CDTi engine is now set to enhance the Astra's appeal as Vauxhall continues to significantly refresh its powertrain offer.

The much-lauded new engine is available in two power outputs: 110PS and 136PS, in both hatchback and Sports Tourer body styles. The 110PS version achieves 76.3mpg combined with CO2 emission of just 97g/km, and 72.4mpg combined and 104g/km in 136PS guise.

Quiet and refined, the new 1.6 CDTi is one of the best engines in its class for noise and vibration thanks to an efficient combustion process with multiple injection, re-designed components and the use of acoustic covers.

Already Euro 6-compliant, the engine is best-in-class in noise and vibration generation.

Not only is the new 1.6 CDTi super-refined, it's also clean and powerful, too. A high-pressure common rail injection system and lean NOx trap exhaust-after treatment (LNT) improve efficiency, while a variable turbine turbocharger help make the new diesel a strong performer, too.

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Official Chevrolet fuel consumption figures for Cruze 1.6 LS: Urban 31.4, Extra-Urban 51.4, Combined 41.5, CO2 159 g/km; Spark 1.0 LS (mpg): Urban 42.8, Extra-Urban 67.3, Combined 55.4, CO2 119 g/km; Trax range: Urban: 34.4-52.3, Extra Urban: 51.3-70.6, Combined – 43.4-62.7. CO2 Emissions 120-153g/km. Official EU-Regulated Test Data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style.

Pictures for illustration purposes only. Models shown are a Chevrolet Cruze LS Hatchback and Estate, featuring metallic paint at an extra cost of £470 and Chevrolet Spark 1.0 LS and a Chevrolet Trax 1.6 LS which feature metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. *Saving shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Saving based on a (trim and engine) Model Year 14 Spark and Model Year 14 Trax.. *Saving shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Savings available on other Chevrolet models. Valid for retail registrations only. Offers available until 31st March 2014 while stocks last. 0% APR Representative, Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Santander Consumer (UK) plc, RH1 1SR or GMAC PO BOX 6666. Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Prices correct at time of print. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Offers may not apply to all Dealer stock.

The fastest model from SEAT set to make its mark

SEAT has revealed the quickest and most powerful series production car it has ever made: the SEAT Leon Cupra 280.

The Cupra 280 sits at the top of a five-strong family of brand new Cupra models that begins with the 265PS Leon SC Cupra and ends with the five-door Cupra 280 DSG.

Every Leon Cupra completes the benchmark 0-62 mph sprint in less than six seconds, while all manual versions return exceptional 44.1 mpg average fuel consumption.

But the Leon Cupra is a car whose development was led by the pursuit of dynamic excellence. To that end, every Leon Cupra comes as standard with a mechanical front axle differential lock, a progressive steering system that sharpens the turn-in for improved agility, DCC dynamic chassis control to alter the suspension settings between sportier or more comfort-oriented, and two-stage deactivation of the electronic stability control (ESC) – including the ability to turn it off entirely.

These are on top of fundamental changes compared to the previous Leon Cupra: the new Leon is built on an all-new chassis, with a wider front track and fully independent suspension front and rear.

"The new Leon Cupra is pure SEAT: emotion and performance, design and dynamics combine to deliver driving fun mile after mile. State-of-the-art technology is evident in its enormous precision, but also in its compelling efficiency," said Dr Matthias Rabe, vice-president of SEAT SA for research and development.

"The new Cupra is a sports car for every day; it feels just as much at home on the race track as it does on the long haul."

The Leon Cupra models embody the SEAT brand values in the best possible way. They combine exhilarating dynamics, state-of-the-art technology, stunning design, premium quality, outstanding efficiency and excellent everyday usability.

"With the new Leon Cupra, the SEAT brand is once more taking a major leap forward. The Cupra is a refined, high-performance car that combines its expressive dynamics with relaxed long-distance comfort and a compelling, high-quality feel," says Jürgen Stackmann, CEO of SEAT SA.

"Driving fun and great design comes with every Leon, but the new Cupra displays SEAT expertise in a whole new dimension. We are proud of this new brand icon and certain of its success."

Cupra stands for power, performance and dynamics – and the new Leon Cupra and Cupra 280 have all those qualities in abundance. The Cupra 280, with optional DSG transmission, catapults

from zero to 62 mph in just 5.7 seconds, or 5.8 seconds with the six-speed manual gearbox equipped; every Cupra model has a 155 mph limited top speed.

Impressive

The 350Nm maximum torque of both versions spreads from just 1,750rpm all the way up to 5,300rpm, guaranteeing impressive pulling power and overtaking flexibility.

Against this, the new Leon Cupra is astonishingly efficient. The average fuel consumption for both power variants is just 44.1 mpg with a manual gearbox equipped, and 42.2 mpg with DSG. This equates to CO2 figures of just 149g/km and 155g/km; by comparison the second generation Leon Cupra R with 265PS emitted 190g/km CO2.

And now SEAT is strengthening its design ties with a collaboration deal struck with Spanish multinational fashion retailer MANGO.

The Mii by MANGO is a special edition of SEAT's practical city car.

The tie-up between the two Spanish companies will result in further activities that will combine SEAT's characteristic driving enjoyment through the latest technology with MANGO's innovative fashion design.

The new SEAT Mii by MANGO stands out thanks to its attractive interior and exterior design, featuring two exterior paint options: Nude, which is unique to Mii by MANGO, and Deep Black. The car is further distinguished by specific exterior side mouldings, dark grey 15in alloy wheels, heated electric door mirrors, and the 'Mii by MANGO' lettering on the left side of the rear hatch and the B-pillar.

The interior of the SEAT Mii by MANGO is highly practical, with a passenger compartment full of unique design elements, and additional equipment compared to the base model – particularly the distinctive grey accents, and the leather steering wheel and gear knob. The front and rear seats feature exclusive Alcantara upholstery with Nude trim and the lettering "Mii by MANGO" stitched onto the headrests.

Furthermore, SEAT's new model includes a practical hook to hang a handbag safely, and a mirror on the driver sun visor, as well as specifically designed floor mats, door sills and key fob.

The Mii by MANGO will be available before the summer in three- and five-door body styles, in the UK becoming the range flagship model.

The car features a comprehensive list of equipment including ESC, ABS, front and side airbags for driver and passenger, head-thorax airbags, and passenger airbag deactivation.

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VW on the mark for SUV

By Graham Breeze

VOLKSWAGEN is relentless in its pursuit of a high ranking in the large SUV sector and the new Touareg R-Line is proof of the company's determination.

Based on the well-equipped Touareg Altitude, the Touareg R-Line adds luxurious extra equipment and unique R-Line styling in the battle to stand out in a crowded market.

Someone in the VW camp probably pointed out that it would be a useless exercise trying to emulate the off-road capabilities of Land Rover Discovery or Range Rover and instead said let's produce an up-market model that's more at home on the road.

Well they succeeded. Most models will never see a muddy track and while Touareg doesn't excel off-road it's capable enough thanks to its high ground clearance and 4MOTION permanent four-wheel drive.

On the road Touareg has impressive comfort levels and refinement and sharp handling for such a huge car.

Sitting on 20-inch 'Tarragona' alloy wheels with 275/45 R20 tyres, the R-Line stands out because of distinctive front and rear bumpers and side skirts and distinctive badging on the front wings.

Standard bi-xenon headlights with dynamic curve lighting and LED daytime running lights give the R-Line driver a commanding view of the road, and are complemented by LED rear lights and number-plate lights.

The R-Line body kit also gives you front and rear bumper and side skirt styling and unique door sill protectors with the logo. Chrome twin tailpipes add a final touch.

Many rivals come with seven seats but Touareg is strictly for five people though the long wheelbase means there's plenty of space wherever you're sitting. The entire rear bench can be moved back and forth to create the space where you need it most.

Folding the back seats down is a t the flick of a switch to increase luggage space from 580 litres to a massive 1,642 litres. And to help drivers cope with the large dimensions when manoeuvring, rear parking sensors are fitted as standard.

On test was the 3.0litre V6 TDi PS which was fitted with a splendid eight speed automatic tiptronic system which is available at on-the-road price tag of £47,070. That seems a lot but you get a lot of car for your money and the cost compares well to some of the competition. There's an impressive top speed of 137mph and 0-62mph in 7.6seconds, as well as combined fuel figures of 39.2mpg. But on the downside you sit in group 40E for insurance purpose and don't protect the planet much with C02 readings of 189g/km.

You will be safe in this model with ABS and EBD braking systems standard along with an intelligent ESP system. You get curtain air bags all round, a rollover protection system and to give you an extra feel of security there's an alarm, electronic immobiliser and child security locks.

The R-Line really competes when it comes to comfort levels. There's a superb touch screen system incorporating SatNav and all the other electronic paraphernalia now associated with luxury travel such as Bluetooth and a multi-device interface. There's the now expected stop/start system as well as hill descent assist and the 4MOTION permanent four wheel drive system has limited slip differential and electronic differential lock on all four wheels meaning you can feel free to go off road if you want.

Would I buy the R-Line? Probably not because I found this Volkswagen just too big. Otherwise Volkswagen have got things just right for taking on the SUV market and will certainly reach their expected targets.

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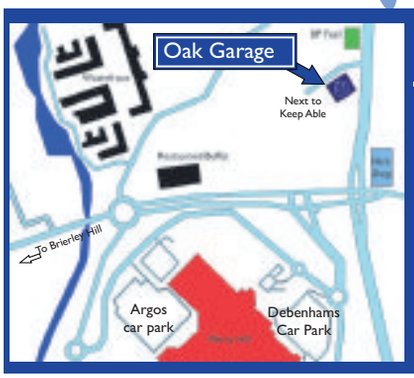

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Hanker after a Mercedes-Benz but hate being parted with your money? The A 180 CDI ECO model is the car for you.

The Mercedes A180 CDI SE ECO might well be a car you'd never previously considered if you were maybe looking at a Focus or an Astra.

If you can downsize one notch, you get a car that's cheaper to run, better built inside and comes with some sophisticated technology which makes it feel like money extremely well spent.

The Mercedes A180 CDI ECO SE develops exactly the same power output as the conventional A180 CDI it replaces but the key mechanical change is a manual transmission with longer ratios in the higher gears.

There's also an improved energy recuperation system and the fitment of a lightweight fuel tank to reduce weight.

Does this change the way the car drives?

Not markedly. The old A180 CDI was never exactly a tarmac scorcher and the ECO model's 11.3 second sprint to 62mph and 118mph top end makes it appear a little pedestrian.

Still, sacrifices do need to be made in order to achieve such excellent economy and emissions figures but you'd be wrong to condemn the A180 CDI as a dull outing as a result.

Fun

While it's certainly not quick in a straight line, there's fun to be had here; something you couldn't really level at its predecessors.

Like other A Class models, the steering is sharp and well-weighted, the manual gearbox is crisp and positive, the brakes are reassuring, front end grip is very good and body control is better than such a tall car has any right to deliver.

The 1.5-litre engine delivers its 258Nm of torque from just 1,750rpm.

The ECO version of the A180 CDI SE features an aerodynamic grille element, coupled with underbody panelling and suspension that's lowered by 10mm front and 15mm at the rear, giving it a hunkered down appearance.

All trim elements have an electroplated finish, resulting in real metal surfaces with a 'cool touch' effect.

The instrument panel is divided into a wing profile-type upper section and a solid lower section.

An interesting design touch is what looks like an iPad sitting on the upper part of the centre console but which is in fact an integrated touch-screen system which syncs seamlessly with a smartphone

There's not a whole lot of choice when specifying your ECO designated A-Class. It's an A180 CDI SE or nothing. Still, at least for around £22,000, you do get air conditioning, electric windows all-round, sports seats, a trip computer, ARTICO and cloth upholstery, the Audio 20 radio with CD, tablet-style colour display, six speakers, telephone keypad, and Bluetooth and USB inputs. You'll need to be a little careful when choosing options to protect those residuals.

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funeral directors

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Central England Co-operative

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0121 525 1909

24-26 Birmingham Street, Oldbury
0121 552 1170

www.centralengland.coop/funeralcare

Turn To Us For Help and Support

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.

- Est. 1907
- 24 hour service

G. Gibbs
Funeral Directors
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West Bromwich B71 1PZ
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Dignity
Part of Dignity plc. A British Company.

funeral services

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Birmingham St Mary's Hospice welcomes collections to support our vital work.
All donations will help us to care for more local families living with terminal illness
For more information on how to support your hospice, please go to **www.birminghamhospice.org.uk** or call
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Reg. charity number: 503456

1 Family

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2 Leisure Time

car boot sales

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caravans / motorhomes

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4/5 berth, 1998, ba heating, shower, flushable toilet, awning. Many extra's. Quick sale. £800 ono.
07761 133407
0121 429 5493.

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£1,175. 07816 097497.

caravans wanted

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
CASH WAITING
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07760 344 750

jumble sales / fetes

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Sacred Heart
Holy Souls
Church Hall
Victoria Road
Tipton
DY4 8SN
Saturday Februayr 22
12 noon
Admission 30p

JUMBLE SALE
Saturday 22nd Feb.
St Marks Church Hall,
Ocker Hill, Tipton.
Doors Open 6pm
Admission 20p
ALL WELCOME

JUMBLE SALE, St Luke's Church, Elwell Street, Wednesbury, Saturday, February 22, 11am-1pm. Refreshments available. Admission 20p.

what's on

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Cosalt Riviera Caravan
35x10, 3-bed: Sea Views, Wide Horizons, Aberaeron. Perfect condition

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mind, body & soul

psychics

PSYCHIC READINGS & party bookings. West Brom indoor market. Special Offer £15. 07957 107958.

3 Home & Services

collectables & memorabilia

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furniture

WINTER SALE UPTO 70% OFF
Furniture Factory Outlet
Worcester extra value divan single was £99 NOW £49.50. Doubles £89.50. Cleo Sofa Bed clic clac in fabric or faux leather was £398 NOW £119 Melissa Cabin Bed, with base cupboards and drawers, blue or pink, quality mattress, was £390 NOW £195. complete divans from £49, ortho matts from £69. memory foam matts £99, metal fashion beds frames £39, ottoman and leather sleigh beds, over 1000 mattresses, wing chairs £119, recliner chairs £199, massage and power recliners from £299, complete suites from £299. **Save 50% on all leather corner units-normally £499 half price £249.** 3 seater wexford fabric sofas-normally £399 clearance £149. Chairs £49. Recliners leather £199. Beds from £49. Mattresses from just £29. Bunk beds £99.
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0121 557 6885

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SUE RYDER NEW Charity shop open 27th Sep, Cannock. Need donations urgently. 01827 310963

household appliances

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Sleepers, decking, 4x2 deck joists, 4x4 wood posts, 3x3 wood posts, cant rail, 3x2 rail, 4x2 rail, 6ft round posts, half round rails, 3x1.5in rail, f.e.b all sizes, capping rails, dried kiln logs and 6ft lath.
ROCK SALT £5 PER BAG
WS3 2BQ
Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

AT C B SHEDS & FENCING We supply/fit. Free quotes. Supply sleepers & decking 01922 720270.

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items for sale

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LOG BURNER 8.5KW Double doors, brand new including flue pipes. £450 ono. 07436 544755.

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Any condition.
Collections bought.
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01922 495066 or 07971 783206

ITEMS FOR CASH: toys, electric goods, bikes. Loft/garages cleared. 07733 295678 or 0800 8589719.

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1 aerial into 2 rooms
£85
1 aerial into 4 rooms
£125
All work guaranteed
SAME DAY SERVICE
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01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

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Supplied and Fitted £195
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A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
Carpets dry in 30 minutes.
Call Paul: 0800 112 3959
www.aclasscarpetcleaning.co.uk

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07810122133 *Standard sizes apply

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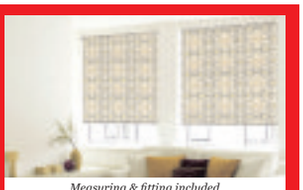

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CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item.07429 453209 / 01902 830870 01384 940260 / 01922 263460.

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Approved

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S N ROOFING flat tiled insurance and repair work undertaken. 01543 324749 / 07980 188227.

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All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days.
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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

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pets corner

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

DOBERMAN PUPPY bitch, 8 months old, black and tan, pedigree, socialised, inoculated, vet records. £300. 07980 768531.

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ClassifiedAds

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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6 Property

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NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

ALDRIDGE 2-bed house, GCH, available mid March. £525pcm. 07941 937934.

BEDSIT Hednesford area, single person only. 07969 129134.

DARLASTON, 2-Bed Flat, CH. New kitchen & bathroom. New carpets. £400pcm. No DSS. 07833 617007.

DSSMOVE.CO.UK the property website where properties say YES to DSS tenants.

NICELY PRESENTED 2 bedroom apartment in Heath Hayes, close to Cannock Train Station, no Pets, Smokers or DSS, available immediately. For more information call 07971 960299.

ONE BED FLAT Willenhall Town Centre. £90 p/w. Deposit required. No texts. 07976 781003.

ONE BEDROOM flat, West Brom, large lounge, set in quiet cul-de-sac, off road parking, CH, DG, fitted kitchen, £385pcm. 07943 198843.

ONE BEDROOM flat with large kitchen in Norton Canes with parking £395 pcm. 01543 275399.

ROOM, Cheslyn Hay, recently decorated, all bills inc, parking available, £300pcm. 07880 640983.

SHIFNAL AREAone bed flat, country setting, £450pcm. 01952 462284 or 07944 590820.

THREE BED detached with garage, Essington, recently modernised, £675 no DSS. 07830 429612.

WEST BROMWICH 10 bed house, gas ch,D/glazed. 07940 530096.

WEST BROMWICH, modern studios available by town centre, no deposits, DSS 35+ welcome, 07989 619386

overseas property

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P/T QUALIFIED PSV DRIVER 20+ hours p/w. West Bromwich. Call 0121 5804855.

engineering

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ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC engineer required to train as remote control technician (HBC products) experience of overhead travelling cranes a distinct advantage. Office based whilst training then some site work throughout the UK. Salary negotiable dependent upon qualifications. Call HBC-radiomatic 0121 503 6930 for application form

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full time - general

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nursing & carers

CARE STAFF for day and night shifts, Streetly area, wage and hours to be discussed. Must have NVQ 2 / 3. Call J Beecroft on 0121 352 1113.

part time - general

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on 0800 174 064.

security

ALARM / CCTV ENGINEER required. Minimum 2 years experience essential. Company vehicle will be provided. Please call JM Security Systems on 0121 359 2242 for further details.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

CHRYSLER YPSILON 5 door hatchback, 1.2 black and red, 2013 reg, MoT till 2016, low mileage, cheap tax, £7,700 ono. 0121 556 9799.

CITROEN XSARA Picasso HDi Exclusive, 2 litre 2004, taxed, MoT'd, Grey, FSH, Excellent condition. £1,795 ono. 07709 295577.

FORD FOCUS ESTATE 1.6 petrol, 2003, silver, 6 months tax, 3 months MoT, 82,000 miles, great reliable car, £1,375 ono. 07930 461831.

FORD FOCUS GHIA 1.6 SALOON
Very, very low mileage 28,000 miles.
1 owner from new, full Ford S/H, excellent inside/out, tax/MoT 10 months, perfect to drive.
£2,195 ono. 07808 470751.

FORD FOCUS ZETEC
TDCI, 58 plate, 49,500 miles, low tax, air con, alloys, alarm, new tyres disc pads, privacy glass, metalic black, sas.
£6,495.
07572 113209.

MAZDA MX5, 2007, 25,000 miles, blue, fsh, metallic paint, one owner, 2 litres, £6,500 ono. 01922 494515.

LOOK

MERCEDES C220 CDI AVANTGARDE SE AUTO ESTATE 2007
MoT December 2014.
Tax. FSH.
Manuals plus 2 keys.
Leather interior.
Excellent condition.
£6,200 ono.
07734 889024.

MINI COOPER S Convertible, 56 Reg, 50,000 Miles, grey, MoT Sep, TAX Aug, Chilli Pack, visibility pack, £6,495. 07833 117445.

RENAULT KANGOO 08, Silver, 46k, 1.6, petrol, wheelchair ramp, MoT. Very good condition. £2,750 ono. 07974 311116.

TOYOTA RAV 4 3dr, 2003, petrol, silver, MoT May 2014, excellent condition, illness forces sale, £2,700 ono. 01543 278587.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6
2006, 68,000 miles, metallic grey, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, MoT, central locking, tax, CD, very good condition, lady owner.
£2,950. 07817 728139.

VW GOLF ESTATE
2003 (53 reg), 122k, met grey, long MoT, many new parts, alloys, 1 Family owner. Immaculate.
£2,650.
07971 689507.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMA Established 25 Years
Small economical cars with full Mot's under £1000
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Major credit cards excepted
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01902 490555 / 07553 358610
DALE STREET, BILSTON, WV14 7JY

BMW 323I COUPE. 2000(W), 97k, blue, MoT and tax, usual extras, nice car, £975 ono. 07565 568149.

CITROEN C2 1.1 LX, 05 Plate, blue, long MoT and tax, excellent condition, £1,795. Telephone 07850 090075.

FORD FIESTA FLIGHT
1.3, 02 reg., red, 12 months MoT, tax end of June 2014, alloys, clean and tidy, well maintained, ideal first car,
£900.
01543 683182.

FORD FOCUS 1.6 2001, long MoT/tax. Fully serviced including cam belt, £850 ono. 07543 919296.

FORD FOCUS SPORT TDCi 1.8
04 reg., 5 months MoT, 3 months tax, very reliable runner, in a good working condition.
Offers in region of £1,500.
07837 307228.

FORD MONDEO 2.0 ZETEC Y Reg., MoT, good condition inside and out. £345. 07902 387527.

FORD MONDEO TDCi Ghia X, Auto, diesel, 2002, low mls, taxed/tested. Immaculate condition. Every extra. £1,050. 07539 283704.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4LX W Reg, 60k Miles, Metallic Green, AC, 12m MOT, 3m Tax, Excellent Condition £995.00 ono 07896 008150

RELIANT RIALTO 1986, reconditioned engine, tax and MoT till August 2014, £1,200 ono. 07910 019611.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.4, 8 months tax and MoT, 2001, very tidy, £495. 07946 127658.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 2000, MoT July, Tax May, 3dr, Green, Cassette/radio, very clean, tidy, good runner. £425 ono. 07584 191793.

commercial vehicles

PEUGEOT PARTNER VAN, 2005, 92,000 miles, white, 5 months MoT and tax, diesel, pas, boarded interior, £1,800 ono. 07794 179158.

driving tuition

Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £69! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
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£9 EACH FOR FIRST 2 Lessons. £18 a lesson after. Pass quick on manual ex BSM. 07957 254425. Wednesbury surrounding areas.

motorbikes

M & C MOTORCYCLES Get your bike ready for next summer. Collection and delivery. 01922 276552.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS Guarantee best cash price for unwanted cars/vans. Call 01902 495758 / 07903 549849.

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BEST PRICE CAR + VAN HIRE Daily,Weekly, Call Practical 0121 556 1315 practical.co.uk

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From £10 per day
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0121 526 4666
07795 535 007

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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Scrap it legally, NO fines, NO comebacks.
All scrap cars/vans wanted
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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

KEITH JAMES ONIONS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 35 Warren Close Tipton West Midlands DY4 9PQ, who died on 01/04/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 02/05/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
THE CO-OPERATIVE LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: DMEA/3251836P/Onions) *T402819*

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL (SANDON ROAD, SMETHWICK) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2014

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell, in order to facilitate carriageway resurfacing works by Birmingham City Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, intends to make an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding in the stretch of Sandon Road, Smethwick which falls under Sandwell's jurisdiction.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Hagley Road, Bearwood Road and vice-versa.
3. In order to maintain access to side roads throughout the duration of the works the provisions of the following Traffic Regulation Orders will be suspended making part of Poplar Road and Rutland Road two-way:

The County Borough of Warley (Traffic Regulation) Order 1970

1. Save as in Article 2 of this Order no person shall, except upon the direction or with the permission of a police constable in uniform, cause any vehicle to proceed in any of the lengths of road specified in the first column of the Schedule to this Order otherwise than in the direction specified opposite to that length in the second column of the said Schedule.

Schedule

Length of Road	Direction
Poplar Road	South – towards Bearwood Road.
For its whole length from Sandon Road to Bearwood Road **in as far as it relates to the stretch of Poplar Road between Sandon Road and Anderson Road only**.	

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Rutland Road, Bearwood) (One Way Traffic) Order 2006

3. No person shall, except upon the permission of a police officer, cause or permit any motor vehicle or pedal cycle to proceed along that length of Rutland Road from its junction with Bearwood Road to a point 7 metres east of that junction other than in a westerly direction.
4. The Order will take effect on 3rd March 2014, and it is expected that the work will take until 7th March 2014, to complete with the anticipated hours of working being 20.00hrs - 06.00hrs. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
5. Any queries about the work should be directed to Clive Beards of Amey (working on behalf of Birmingham City Council) who can be contacted on 0121 212 7227 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518.

DATED this 20th day of February 2014
N SHARMA, Director of Legal and Governance Services
Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(A)
THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 7, GREAT BARR) (SLIP ROAD) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport has made an Order on the M6 Motorway in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to allow maintenance work to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the –

a) exit slip road leading from the southbound carriageway of the M6 at M6 Junction 7; and
b) entry slip road leading from M6 Junction 7 to the northbound carriageway of the M6; and
c) exit slip road leading from the northbound carriageway of the M6 at M6 Junction 7;

Work will be carried out over one night between 22:00 hours and 05:00 hours and is expected to start on Sunday 2nd March 2014. The Order will come into force on Monday 24th February 2014.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer will be exempt from the closure. A diversion route via M6 Junction 6 and 9 will be well signed.

For further information, please contact Purnima Kaul on 0121 687 8586.

Paul Siddall, a Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The Borough Council Of Sandwell (Langley Green Level Crossing, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell, in order to facilitate essential maintenance work to Langley Green Level Crossing by Network Rail, in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in Crosswells Road, Oldbury, from its junction with Western Road to its junction with Thompson Road.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Western Road, Tat Bank Road, Vicarage Road and vice-versa.
3. The Order will take effect on Saturday 1st March 2014, and it is anticipated that the works may commence on that day at 22.00hrs. The works are expected to be completed on Sunday 2nd March 2014, at 11.00hrs. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the works should be directed to John Woodward of Network Rail – 0121 345 1939.

DATED this 20th day of February 2014
N SHARMA, Director of Legal and Governance Services
Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.
This is a major application.

DC/14/56780	Mr Michael Rossington YMCA BCG	YMCA John Lees House 38 Carters Green West Bromwich B70 9LG	Proposed variation of conditions 3,4,9,13,19 - 25 (inc.) & 28 of planning permission DC/12/55339.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE
(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.
Mr Nick Bubalo, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
Proposed Puffin Crossing in Station Road, Rowley Regis

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell proposes under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to construct a Puffin Crossing in Station Road, Rowley Regis, located approximately 30m east of Avenue Road.
2. A copy of the map showing full details of the proposed location of the crossing may be inspected at the offices of the Area Director Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE during normal working hours.
3. Any person wishing to make a representation in respect of this proposal should contact Trevor Chatwin, Directorate of Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE or email highways@sandwell.gov.uk by no later than 14th March 2014.

Dated this 20th day of February 2014
STEVE HANDLEY, Area Director Street Scene
Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

PUBLIC NOTICE
I Jenny Irene Tromans of 21 Griffiths Road, West Bromwich, B70 2EH intend to marry Darragh James Staunton of 21 Griffiths Road, West Bromwich, B70 3EH, at Villa Fondi, Sorrento, Italy on 02/08/2014. Any person knowing of any lawful impediment to the marriage should without delay notify : Certificate of No Impediment, Consular Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, room K4.9, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH.

10 Personals

personal

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

CALL SEXY LOCAL WOMEN for no fees adult fun. Contact 0700 802 3093 for details.

TALL, ATTRACTIVE 51, YEAR OLD FEMALE
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Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

XTASIA SWINGERS CLUB
West Bromwich. www.xtasia.co.uk for full information. 07850 236053.

general

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED
(Live out)
Approximately 2.5 hours per day, Monday to Friday.
Someone who will take pride in looking after a beautiful home, Mrs Doubtfire comes to mind with OCD!
Cannock area, must be animal lover and able to work alone.
Apply in writing to:
Box Number P19076 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

ADVERTISEMENTS CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

1. **Midland News Association Limited** All publications in this group are published by the Midland News Association Limited, registered office Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES ('the Company') and this is the address to which any notices should be sent.
2. **Acceptance** The Company will only accept advertising on these standard terms and no other contract terms or conditions will apply other than those which are implied by statute and cannot lawfully be excluded. In particular the Company will not accept advertising on the basis of advertiser's terms and conditions.
3. **Content of Advertisements** All advertisements must be legal decent honest and truthful. Advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes under the general supervision of the Advertising Standards Authority. Advertisements must comply with the requirements of all current legislation including but not limited to the following:- All advertisements must clearly differentiate between trade and private advertising as required by the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must comply with the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980.
All descriptions of goods must be accurate and in no way infringe the provisions of the Trades Descriptions Act 1968.
Advertisements must not contain any material which is defamatory. You must have permission to use any material contained in your advertisement and must not infringe the copyright moral rights or any other right of any third party.
The Company reserves the right to refuse to carry any advertisement or to require amendment of any advertisement in its absolute discretion.
4. **Appearance of Advertisements** Whilst the Company makes every effort to comply with requests, publication on a particular date or in a particular position cannot be guaranteed. The Company reserves the right to alter, suspend, cancel or reject an advertisement at its discretion even after the same has been accepted for publication without being liable to compensate you. You will not be charged for any advertisement which does not appear. If only a part of a series of advertisements appears you will only be charged for the advertisements in the series which actually appear. The Company does not guarantee the publication or extent of supporting editorial and your obligation to pay for advertising will not under any circumstances be dependent upon the appearance or content of editorial. No liability will be accepted for non-appearance of editorial. The Company does not guarantee that advertising will not appear for similar or the same subject matter to your advertisement and no liability shall be accepted as a result of such advertising appearing. It is the advertiser's responsibility to provide any amended copy, whether by electronic or other format, and the Company does not guarantee that it will be able to or will agree to modify, amend or alter any file or copy supplied to it.
5. **Liability The Company's** liability for any loss or damage caused by any error or omission in the advertisement or any other breach of contract shall not in any circumstances exceed a full refund of any price paid by the advertiser to the Company for the publication of the advertisement or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of the same type as that which originally appeared. Where a series of advertisements is booked the Company's liability shall not in any circumstances exceed the value of the first advertisement in the series. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the publication of the advertisement the Company will either re-publish the advertisement or the relevant parts of the advertisement or make a reasonable refund of or adjustment to the cost of the advertisement. If the error does not materially detract from the advertisement then no re-publication, refund or adjustment will be made. It is the advertiser's responsibility to check the content of advertisements and the Company will not accept any liability for loss or damage, or obligation to republish or make a refund or adjustment, arising from re-publication of an advertisement containing an error, misprint or omission which has not been identified by the advertiser after first publication.
6. **Box numbers The Company** accepts no liability for loss or damage caused by delay in forwarding or omission to forward to the advertiser replies to Box Numbers. Box Numbers must not be used for sending goods, distributing circulars or communications from agents. The Company reserves the right to open and inspect all replies to Box Number and to destroy goods, circulars of communications from agents which are discovered during an inspection.
7. **Inspection The Company** shall be entitled at any time to inspect any goods or services advertised and may decline to carry further advertising if such inspection is not permitted or if in the Company's opinion the provision of further advertising facilities is not appropriate in view of the nature or quality of the goods or services.
8. **Indemnity** The advertiser, including any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement, warrants that it has permission to use for publication by electronic and printed means all material which is included in the advertisement. The advertiser and any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement agree to indemnify the Company in respect of all charges, costs, claims or damage arising out of the publication of the advertisement, whether the same result from actual or threatened legal action or from some other cause.
9. **Cancellation** On a request for cancellation or amendment of a classified advertisement being accepted, you will be given a cancellation or amendment number which must be quoted in all subsequent correspondence. Payment of the originally agreed price will be required in full for any advertisement in relation to which the advertiser is unable to supply a valid cancellation or amendment number. Cancellation can only be accepted if the Company is notified of the cancellation by no later than the following deadlines:-
Lineage, Semi Display - By no later than 6.30pm on the working day prior to publication. Advertisements to appear on Monday must be cancelled by 10 am on the preceding Saturday
Classified Display - By no later than 24 hours before the date of publication
Colour/Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication
To cancel Lineage, Semi Display and Classified Display advertisements please telephone 01902 317878. To cancel Colour/Features advertisements please speak to the Representative through whom the advertisement was booked.
10. **Rates** Advertising rates are as laid out in the Company's current rate card which is available on request from the Company's offices. The rates may be varied from time to time in the Company's absolute discretion and without prior notification of the intended variation. The revised rate will be charged for any advertising ordered after the date of variation.
All gross advertising rates except classified lineage and semi-display are subject to a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance levy payable by advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
11. **Payment** The Company reserves the right to require pre-payment as a condition of any advertisement being published. Where pre-payment is not required unless different credit terms have been agreed with the advertiser in writing payment must be made within 14 days of the date of issue of the Company's invoice. An additional £2.00 booking charge will be payable if the invoice is not paid in full within this 14 day period.
Any additional credit facilities which are offered are at the Company's absolute discretion. The advertiser's liability shall be for the full amount of all advertising ordered and shall not be limited to the amount of any credit limit which the Company may impose.
Payment may be made by [method] cash, cheque or credit/debit card. The advertiser's obligation to pay for other items on an account shall not be affected by the existence of any query over an individual item within that account.
12. **Data Protection Act** The advertiser's details will be retained by the Company for the purposes of administering our accounts records and so that the Company may notify the advertiser of future advertising opportunities which may be of interest to you. By placing advertising with the Company the advertiser agrees to your details being used for this purpose.
13. **Applicable Law** These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

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Quality Double Memory Foam bed RRP Was £899 Now £317
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ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719**

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715**

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895**

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117**

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733**

ABI creative free spirited lady enjoys drama, photography, music, WLTM well-spoken patient, independent non-judgmental man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409723**

MARGARET OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTM caring male with similar refined tastes. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925**

GOLDEN haired Asian orphan, looking for a strong hairy man who can make me feel pretty again. Willing to travel. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4267681**

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019**

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331**

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479**

ADVENTUROUS attractive lady seeks no strings casual times with discreet gent. **Tel: No. 0905 002 1957 Box 409991**

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461**

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408297**

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943**

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859**

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, wining, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869**

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733**

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489**

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311**

ATTRACTIVE 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955**

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151**

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101**

HI I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089**

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877**

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KATH blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955**

BLACK female, 45, seeking older gent, 60 plus who knows how to look after a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407787**

ANNABELLA board attractive 30 something nurse wanting healing hands for no strings fun. No TLC required. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407449**

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253**

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTM broadminded male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409259**

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285**

CHRIS blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615**

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135**

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428**

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106**

CAROL 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401853**

SUE attractive lonely brunette who loves eves in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407021**

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407603**

SLIM active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693**

SUE 40's female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407019**

NICKY loving caring gorgeous fun young lady who loves swimming, dancing and lots more, seeking male for text chats and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407459**

PAM 71, feels younger, lots to give, socialising, theatre, country walks, charity work, seeking male to share interests with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407851**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651**

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTM loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419**

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409263**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

ANITA very attractive black female, seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy uncomplicated relationship with no ties. Any age, pls contact me, I'm very lonely. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408505**

HI I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933**

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537**

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639**

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429**

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413**

MICHELLE lonely singleton, fit/slender, passionate, easy-going seeks male to cook for and generally spoil rotten in exchange for great companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407501**

HEATHER larger than life, cuddly built lady, scrubs up pretty well, employed, OHAC, GSOH, looking for good times with willing male, fun times guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407307**

MANDY divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407469**

NICKY 26 fun single female who has been on her own far too long desperately seeking her Prince Charming, must be tactile and possess the ability to fall in love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407485**

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WHERE have all the genuine men gone? Sue single female who enjoys nights in/out, music, seeks sincere male to enjoy good times and get close to. Pls ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407025**

PAULA 38 single mum with OHAC, attractive blue eyes, size 14, seeking well built male with GSOH and honest/reliable disposition, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407029**

MEDIUM build female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407003**

HI I am Linda a lonely petite mature lady looking for nice caring male up to 65yrs who also has lots of love to give for hopeful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406715**

ANITA petite 33yr old tanned, toned sexy size 10 female with very high drive and lots of energy looking for similar man for adult no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406835**

CARING female, likes Indian rock music, concerts, cinema, seeks North Staffs male, 40-55 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406757**

LINDA bored housewife wanting to spice things up a bit looking for clean well mannered professional for discreet adult meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406705**

GOOD looking professional female, 51, enjoys arts, wining/dining, sight seeing, country walks, seeks special male to enjoy great fun with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406765**

ATTRACTIVE lady, late 40's, seeks much younger man for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384820**

TRACY 35yr old blonde petite single mum, WLTM tall male for nights out, text chats and hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407215**

LYN slim size 10, 5ft 9ins, attractive with GSOH, OHAC, employed, WLTM genuine guy who is also looking to put some fun back into life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407195**

DEBS 37yr old professional, outgoing, bubbly, seeking genuine man for good times in/out and just see where it leads. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407039**

BLONDE blue eyed 72yr old widow, GSOH, young at heart, seeks honest, caring gent of similar age for holidays, weekends away and happy times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407113**

SHAZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTM appreciative guy **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819**

WOMAN 55yrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, TV, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404447**

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177**

ELIZABETH 33, curvy attractive blonde, likes walking, socialising, meals out, entertaining, WLTM well educated nice male 50-60's for nice times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403937**

SENSUAL cuddly 32yr old professional looking for similar minded discreet male up to 40yrs for 1-2-1 fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404023**

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947**

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818**

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807**

TINA fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in, dates out, possible romance and adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403567**

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406341**

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015**

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985**

SHELLEY 48, 5ft 5ins, brunette, seeking discreet relationship with male 48-52 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405795**

CHRISTINA 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe. Age/looks and status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405243**

BLACK female 32yrs, 38dd, very curvy, sensual and looking for discreet fun with no strings or complications, any age, looks or status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405269**

MARIA petite curvy brunette, into keep fit, running, beauty, looking for nice genuine tall N/S guy with no ties for fun adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405099**

Men seeking women

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WOLFIE 42 Seeks Wendy for football matches and nights in/out. Luvs gym keeping fit, seeking a nice girl for LTR. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4245943**

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6FT male, medium build, brown eyes, dark hair, fit, likes walks, football, holidays, country drives, seeks nice bubbly lady with many interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409851**

PAUL 55, 6ft 2ins, intelligent, down to earth, kind, genuine, honest, seeks female, 50-60 for relationship, many hobbies. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409783**

DAVE 54, seeking female, 40-51 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409839**

MARK 6ft, blue eyes, slim, dark hair, honest, loving, caring, down to earth, likes sport, music, cinema, meals out, seeking special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409803**

SINGLE white 40's male, looking for strictly no strings adult fun, any age/race/looks, genuine callers. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409613**

LOCAL businessman, seeking special friend for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409585**

SAM seeking lovely lady for great times likes sports, good standard of living, looking for some fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409527**

ATTRACTIVE male, 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, loving, genuine, seeks attractive female, single mum welcome, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409471**

PETE 6ft 1ins, likes body building, kick boxing, seeks female for love and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409451**

MASON single parent, seeking female for no strings fun times, 30-45. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409443**

MATURE male, lonely, no ties, attractive, likes TV, reading, walks, holidays, meals out, seeks attractive, smart female, 65-72 to share simple things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408183**

GARY 40, tall, dark hair, seeks female, 30-50 for fun and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409207**

MALE 53, looking to meeting 60-65 lady for adult fun times. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4234583**

MALE 45, GSOH 6ft. Many interests, seeks slim outgoing lady, for love or friendship. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4283955**

LUCA 67, 5ft 3ins, seeking some one for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410375**

JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267**

SLIM attractive man, tired of lonely nights, seeks genuine lady for friendship and evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410261**

PETE 6ft 1ins, body builder, likes kick boxing, daughter, seeking female, 30-40 for love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410245**

MALE 55, 5ft 10ins, seeks lady 30-58 for cosy nights in, holidays, nights out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410207**

STEVE 40, 6ft, muscular, dark hair, half Italian, seeks busty, classy lady, 55 plus for discreet adult fun. Where is my Sophia Loren? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410529**

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MALE 47, would like loving, adult relationship, age/size unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410107**

DAN 36, down to earth, attractive, enjoy pubs, meals out, football, boxing, cinema, shopping, seeking special female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410037**

GENUINE South Shropshire male, 45, 5ft 10ins, GSOH, likes walks, cycling, music, seeks lady of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409897**

NICK GSOH, looking for someone caring to share fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410001**

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ATTRACTIVE male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189**

MARK 44, 6ft, dark hair, businessman, interesting, seeking sporty female for meals out, day trips, country walks etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408571**

FUN loving male, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, seeks mature female, 50-65 for meals out and daytime relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408185**

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157**

JOHN 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403273**

TIM easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411**

MATURE land owner, GSOH, youthful outlook, likes countryside, socialising, history, seeks lady who appreciates good food/conversation with view to relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408417**

MALE likes nights out, holidays, seeking nice female for friendship, fun and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409363**

GENEROUS male, 6ft, GSOH, likes music, DIY, seeks attractive lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409019**

TONY 55, dark hair, 6ft, confident, outgoing, seeks mature, attractive female, 68 plus, genuine ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408989**

FUN loving male, 47, lots to give, looking for genuine lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409159**

GENT 55, slightly mad, but not bad, will make you glad you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973**

TALL intelligent, professional fit guy, 50's, athletic, seeks good natured, intelligent female, 50-57 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408991**

LONELY male, 55, seeks Indian/Jamaican female, 25 plus for sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408957**

Men seeking men

GAY guy 58, Shropshire, seeks male 30-80 for friend, companion or long term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407819**

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892**

BI male, young, fit 50, divorced, generous, own business, seeks male, any nationality, 18-40 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409669**

BI male, divorced, own business, generous, fit, 50, seeks male, any nationality, 18-45 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409009**

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Mel has struggle on his hands – Clarke

Football

FORMER Albion boss Steve Clarke believes replacement Pepe Mel is facing a "struggle" to keep the Baggies in the Premier League as they sit at the bottom of the division and haven't tasted victory for five matches.

The Scot broke his silence on his Hawthorns sacking and insisted he never lost the loyalty of the Baggies players before he was shown the door in December. He also said adjusting to being away from the club took some time.

And Clarke claimed Mel, who was appointed as his successor following a month-long search, has a difficult job to save the club from relegation into the Championship where they could meet old rivals Wolves should the Molineux side win promotion.

"The club didn't have anyone in mind when they made the change because they put Keith Downing in charge and he got a good reaction," said Clarke.

"He stabilised the ship and got three draws and a good home win against Newcastle.

"Now the club have decided to go down the foreign route and bring in Pepe Mel," said Clarke.

"He seems like a nice guy. I don't know him but anyone I have spoken to at West Brom says he's a good guy so I wish him well in his struggles for the rest of the season.

"And it will be struggles because even in recent matches you can see the team are competitive but it's still a battle and they're only getting draws when they should be getting wins."

The Baggies, who are in the final stages of a six-day Spanish training camp, have yet to win in five matches under Mel with three home wins and two away defeats so far making up his starting record.

And Clarke admitted he was disappointed when he was relieved of his duties at the Hawthorns so soon after leading the club to an eighth-placed Premier League finish in May.

"I knew the pressure was building but I thought I would get the Christmas period," he said.

"It seemed a strange time to make the change because we had Hull City coming up the following week.

"Obviously the chairman decided enough was enough and he wanted to make the change and you have to respect that.

"It was disappointing. I felt I still had the dressing room.

"The players were fighting for me every day and working well in training."

"When you still have the dressing room you always feel you have a chance," added Clarke.

"It was a strange Christmas at home. It took me about four weeks to relax properly and get over it but I'm over it now and looking forward to the next challenge."

Top-rate Vlaar fit for his comeback

RON Vlaar has confirmed he is fully fit for the Premier League run-in.

The Dutch central defender has become the talisman of Villa's top-flight fortunes this season – they have failed to win a league game without him and lost five of the six he has missed.

The last time Villa won a Premier League game without Vlaar was in December 2012, throwing even more focus on his recovery from the hamstring injury which forced him to limp away and watch a winning position against Everton turn into defeat.

He then missed the home loss to West Ham before returning for the draw at Cardiff.

And as Villa now enjoy warm weather training in Portugal, Vlaar says: "I feel good – it's 100 per cent now. It was frustrating, after my calf injury in December, but I've only missed the West Ham game this time," added Vlaar

"Sometimes you have to make a choice. It is not about one game. It is about 12 or 13, so that's the most important thing. "

Woffy wins man of year accolade

WOLVERHAMPTON ace Tai Woffinden left a host of motorcycling icons trailing as he blitzed to theMotorcycle News Man of the Year Award for 2013.

The 23-year-old was up against a galaxy of two-wheeled stars from the road racing world, but bagged twice the number of votes notched by any of the other 13 shortlisted riders to become the first speedway winner in the poll's 56-year history following his world title triumph last year.

The award puts Woffinden in the company of motorcycling royalty, such as Barry Sheene, Mike Hailwood, John Surtees, Valentino Rossi and Carl Fogarty who have all triumphed in the past.

The prize is further recognition for the Team Great Britain captain, who stormed to the Speedway World Championship, despite starting the season at odds of 500/1 and breaking his collarbone twice during the year.

Clubs in tribute to the legend Sir Tom Finney

FOOTBALL fans from across England came together to pay their respects to Sir Tom Finney after the legendary winger's death at the age of 91.

Supporters at grounds up and down the country observed a period of silence or applause in memory of the Preston North End icon, who was compared to modern-day stars including Lionel Messi.

Football

The tributes were most poignant at Deepdale, where Sir Tom was revered as Preston's greatest sporting son and where players and friends held an emotional minute's silence.

The scene was replicated elsewhere at Football League and FA Cup matches over the weekend, including Wolves' 2-0 victory over Notts County in League One at Molineux.

Gentleman

Tributes came from players of all generations including recent England captain David Beckham, who launched his own career when he joined North End on loan from Manchester United.

On returning from a Unicef trip to the Philippines, Beckham wrote on Facebook: "I just landed and heard the sad news that Sir Tom Finney had passed away.

"I was lucky enough to have met him when I was on loan at Preston and he was not just an England great but a true gentleman. My thoughts are with his family."

Finney, who died on Friday at the age of 91, enjoyed a glittering career for both club and country.

He scored 210 goals in 473 games for Preston and 30 in 76 England appearances. The one-club man led his side to the 1954 FA Cup Final, where they were beaten by Albion.

Preston's players all wore black armbands and shirts bearing the name Finney above their squad numbers.

A statue of Finney outside Deepdale was also covered with flowers, shirts and scarves left by fans before the club's 1-1 draw with Leyton Orient.

The statue, known as 'The Splash' and inspired by a 1956 photograph showing Finney beating two defenders at a waterlogged Stamford Bridge, attracted tributes from fans of a host of clubs including Blackpool, Preston's bitter rivals.

Tommy Docherty, who played with Finney for Preston between 1949 and 1958, said: "He was the best player I've ever seen, alongside Lionel Messi.

Ill wind blows some good for Harry's hole in one

Golf Academy Director andEngland golf coach Rob Bluck presents Harry with his certificate for hitting a hole in one

A YOUNG Dudley golfer has achieved every players dream of a hole in one at a course near Wolverhampton.

Ten-year-old golfer Harry Watton from Upper Gornal achieved the impressive feat at the 3 Hammers Golf Complex in Coven. The young golfer, who attends Roberts Primary School, Lower Gornal did it with the first shot from tee on Saturday during the strong winds which hit the region.

Harry regularly visits the Complex for golf lessons, to use driving range for practice and to play their 18 hole golf course. The youngster has been playing golf for 12 months and for the last six months has progressed to the Staffordshire County Academy Programme. The aspiring champion want to follow in the footsteps of his idols Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose. Harry's parents Dave and Natalie said: "We're very proud of him."

Watson primed to step up at Blues

STEVE WATSON was set to become Birmingham's new assistant manager after the exits of Terry McDermott and Derek Fazackerley.

The duo left at the weekend – although the club are yet to confirm their departure – with Watson primed to step up.

Boss Lee Clark is believed to have initiated the move after Saturday's 2-1 defeat to his former club Huddersfield and the pair went after a meeting during the squad's usual Sunday warm down.

Defeat left Blues 18th in the Championship, having won just two of their 16 home league outings this season. They are winless in their last 11 matches at St Andrew's.

McDermott and Fazackerley are yet to comment with legal issues and severance pay to be finalised. McDermott was Clark's assistant at Huddersfield and joined him at St Andrew's in 2012.

Fazackerley was appointed first-team coach by Clark after also working with him at the Terriers. Former Villa and Albion utility player Watson was at Huddersfield under Clark, as development coach.

Lambert denies talk of rift

VILLA boss Paul Lambert has dismissed any claims of a rift with Matt Lowton as "nonsense".

The claret and blue chief insisted Lowton's most recent omission was purely tactical and not because of a problem between the pair. He left Lowton out of the squad for the 0-0 draw at Cardiff last week, the second time in a month he had been axed.

Lowton was also disciplined and cut from the squad for the 2-2 draw at Liverpool in January after being late to training in the build-up to the game.

But Lambert insisted he has no issue with the 24-year-old and said leaving him out at Cardiff was purely a football decision.

"I just left him out. I just had to pick a team that I thought was right," he said. "I don't want people writing I've fallen out with him, because that's nonsense."

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FA panel date on Anelka gesture

ALBION striker Nicolas Anelka will face an FA panel early next week as he awaits his fate over his controversial quenelle goal celebration.

A hearing into Anelka's actions at West Ham on December 28 is scheduled to start on Monday or Tuesday and the independent commission hopes to deliver its verdict before the end of February.

The former France international faces a ban of between five and 10 matches if he is found guilty of misconduct over the celebration following the first of his two goals in the 3-3 Premier League draw.

The proceedings are expected to last at least three days after the 34-year-old requested a personal hearing.

Anelka has repeatedly denied that the gesture was anti-Semitic and insisted it was intended as an anti-establishment statement in support of his friend, the controversial French comedian Dieudonne M'Bala M'Bala.

Anelka was charged on January 21 with making a gesture that was abusive, indecent, insulting or improper and was aggravated by a reference to ethnic origin, race or religion.

Offences including a racial element now carry a minimum suspension of five games.

Perry looks to season

FANS favourite Tom Perry celebrates his 21st birthday this weekend - and the Cradley man hopes to be celebrating success throughout 2014.

Perry is back with the Heathens, who will again race home meetings at Wolverhampton, after he spent last season on loan to the Isle of Wight.

And he said: "It's great to be back and I can't wait to get started with the Cradley boys.

"It's a milestone birthday for me this week and I hope I can celebrate throughout the season with plenty of success for Cradley.

"The bikes are coming along nicely, it's all part of the preparation for the new season and it's going to be a big season for me both on and off the track. Perry says the Heathens management have again got it right with their team selection.

Premier survival must come first – Jones

Football

DEFENDER Billy Jones has insisted Premier League survival comes before his own future as contract talks continued with Albion.

The Hawthorns full-back has opened discussions with the club about extending his current deal, which is due to expire at the end of the season.

But the former Crewe and Preston man insists he is focusing only on helping to keep the Baggies in the top flight with his agents taking care of the negotiations with the Hawthorns hierarchy.

"To be honest, at the moment it's all about concentrating on my football," said the 26-year-old, who hopes to return from a hamstring problem for Saturday's vital Hawthorns showdown with relegation rivals Fulham.

"That's all that matters for me. I'm just concentrating on playing as well as I can for West Brom and within the team and picking up as many points as we can from now to the end of the season.

"Obviously we're desperate to stay in the league and to do that we have to pull in the same direction. I'm not even thinking about it (the contract). I'm just concentrating on playing as well as I can for Albion and staying in the Premier League, which is massive.

"We've got some big, big games between now and the end of the season and everyone just wants to work as hard as they can to turn it around and stay in the league, which is where we feel we belong when we're on form. That's the plan for all of us."

Jones and his team-mates returned this week from Spain, where they spent six days working with new boss Pepe Mel on tactics as he looks for his first win since taking charge last month. The Spaniard is keen to change Albion's style by encouraging his players to close down opponents further up the field.

But Jones insisted: "He emphasises pressing at times but it's not all-out pressing. I think he realises that you can't always do that."

Jones is one of five Baggies players hoping to return against the Cottagers with Jonas Olsson (hamstring) and Stephane Sessegnon (groin) also optimistic of making a comeback for the key clash.

Midfielder Claudio Yacob (hamstring) and striker Nicolas Anelka (shin) remain touch and go.

JONES' DOUBLE IS THE KILLER BLOW

Stourbridge 1 Albion 2

TWO goals from striker Alex Jones saw the Albion under-21 side through into the last four of the Birmingham Senior Cup.

A late well-taken goal by Ben Billingham gave the home side brief hope that they might be able to force extra-time, but Albion held out for what was a deserved victory.

Football

Albion shaded the early exchanges and in the fifth minute skipper Liam O'Neil drilled a 30-yard effort before the visitors took advantage of some poor defending to take a 14th minute lead.

Mani O'Sullivan reached a ball first ahead of an advancing Dean Coleman and pushed a low shot goalwards that was collected by the covering Will Richards, however his clearance went straight to the feet of Joe Ward who cut in and hit a shot from the left-hand edge of the box that Coleman could only parry and Alex Jones was on hand to turn the ball over the line.

Change

Stourbridge made a double change on the hour mark with Ben Billingham and Kayelden Brown entering the fray and just two minutes later, Brown, playing against his former club, had a hand in the hosts going close to an equaliser.

He received the ball and drove forward through the left channel area before sweeping a fine pass across to Jordan Fitzpatrick in some room on the opposite side.

From close to the right-hand edge of the box, he fired in an angled low shot that ran across the face of the six-yard box with Benbow just unable to turn the ball in as he stretched at the far post. A well-crafted move almost yielded a second goal for Albion in the 70 minute.

Jordan Francis attacked down the left and fed Birch who clipped a delightful ball in, however O'Sullivan put his free header the wrong side of Coleman's right-hand upright. Stourbridge replied four minutes later with a Sansara clearance finding Benbow, but he lofted his shot over from the left-hand side of the area.

Tom Berwick was sent on as the Glassboys final change with sixteen minutes left to bolster the home attack, however three minutes later the visitors opened up the Stourbridge defence to grab a second goal. Ward skipped past Nathan Bennett and slipped a pass into the path of the onrushing Jones who stroked a shot past Coleman for his second goal of the night.

Stourbridge pulled a goal back two minutes from time with Billingham doing well to hook the ball past Rose , but the hosts had left it too late and Albion held on to the final whistle.

Albion's Kyle Howkins and Stourbridge's Luke Benbow tussle during the cup clash

Thorne in Baggies ambition

ALBION midfielder George Thorne has targeted promotion to the Premier League with Derby – then a top-flight starting place with the Baggies.

The 21-year-old has joined the Rams for the rest of the season after finding his chances restricted at The Hawthorns following a lengthy lay-off with a ruptured cruciate ligament.

The Baggies academy product is intent on helping Steve McClaren's men reach the Premier League before lining up against them in the top tier next season.

Contract

Thorne, who signed a new three-and-a-half-year contract before moving on loan to Pride Park, has been an unused substitute in their two games since his arrival. But he said: "My personal goal for now is to help Derby gain promotion.

"Then, next season, I want to be playing regularly in Albion's first team. That's why I signed the new contract.

"I'll be back for pre-season and I want to be pushing for a starting place."

Thorne has already spent time on loan at Portsmouth, Peterborough and Watford.

Seven heaven for Old Wulfs

OLD Wulfs beat Kingswinford 7-1 in the West Mids1 to avoid relegation. Goals came from Andy Peters, Ed Hole, Will Ashworth, (all 2) Dave Cartwright 1. On Sunday Old Wulfs Masters progressed to the quarter final of the National over-40s shield beating Kingswinford 7-0. Goals came from Martin Jandu 4, Chris Tibble 1, Chris Nightingale 2.

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